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Levine denies he wants withdrawal from Lebanon

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine last night denied reports he advocates a unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon.

But the revelation of growing discomfort about the continued IDF presence in the security zone threatens to thrust the army's private assessments into a public debate over its future there, and may signal that a change in Israel's position is near.

Both Channel 1 and 2 revealed last night that Levine was the senior officer who told a gathering of brigade commanders earlier this week that the IDF had no reason to remain in the security zone.

"We have to hit Hizbullah with all our might and then we need to get out of Lebanon unilaterally, in stages. That's the best solution to the situation there," the officer was quoted as saying.

It also was reported that Levine's deputy shared similar sentiments and

detailed them in a letter sent to Chief of

Sh'Pites protest Beit Leif bombings, Page 3

General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

But at a late-night press conference, Levine denied he made the comments

attributed to him.

"I never proposed and do not propose a unilateral withdrawal, nor do I believe that we should hit Hizbullah with only one mighty blow," Levine said.

He added that there were numerous debates in the military on tactics and strategy regarding Lebanon and that officers were able to speak their minds.

"There is full freedom of expression for everyone. Of course there are different opinions and we should be proud that people express themselves freely, even if

it contradicts the sentiments of their

superiors, rather than having 'yes men' taking part," Levine said in Tel Aviv.

He added that there were no simple solutions to the conflict in Lebanon. He said that the aim remains to provide security for the communities in the North and to protect the soldiers. He also said that he was in favor of limited strikes instead of large-scale actions.

"It is important to develop a policy of punishment against Hizbullah and the Lebanese government," Levine said, but

he ruled out any strikes against Syria, Iran or their people in Lebanon.

Still, the statements attributed to Levine suggest he is in the precarious situation of ordering soldiers to remain and fight in Lebanon, while he himself believes they shouldn't be there.

Calls against the current IDF policy in Lebanon reflect two growing positions being held by an increasing number of commanders.

See LEVINE, Page 17

THE AGENDA

By AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN

The rift with the US

Two issues were on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's agenda this week: appointing a successor to Avigdor Lieberman as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and the second redeployment, which has been an obstacle to resuming negotiations with the Palestinians.

These issues seem unrelated but they are not. What they have in common is the rift with the US administration.

On Saturday night, Netanyahu phoned former ambassador to the US Zalman Shoval and asked him to come to his house for an important midnight meeting. "Let's talk," he said, without revealing any details of the pending "divorce by mutual consent" with Lieberman.

On the way out of their own meeting with the prime minister that night, Judea and Samaria residents noticed Shoval waiting to be led in. It was only the next day, upon hearing of Lieberman's resignation, that they understood the significance Shoval's presence.

If there's one thing which characterizes Netanyahu even more than the ease with which he gets into trouble, it is the speed with which he manages to put each screw-up behind him and look forward. This trait might not sit well with our long-term collective memory, but it usually helps Netanyahu in the short run.

The proposal to replace Lieberman with Shoval is a perfect example of this trait. The last time Netanyahu offered Shoval a job was in May, when he meant to replace Ambassador Eilahu Ben-Eliassir in Washington, but the appointment did not go through.

See AGENDA, Page 8

PM forced to delay pullback vote

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday was forced to put off a cabinet vote on a limited troop pullback in the West Bank to Sunday, at the earliest.

His attempt to link the pullback to a package deal requiring the Palestinian Authority to move from interim to final-status talks generated controversy and discussion in the cabinet.

Six ministers who did not get a chance to speak are slated to present their opinions of Netanyahu's proposal at Sunday's session.

Later, at a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction, Netanyahu presented his party's MKs with his ideas on furthering the process towards final-status talks. He

Sheerit supports PA state now, Page 2

stressed that the second redeployment would be conditioned on the Palestinians abiding by their commitments and that any further handing over of territory would be part of the permanent arrangements.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said there are legal problems in not going ahead with the third redeployment, Israel Radio reported.

Although the cabinet convened as a ministerial committee on security, there were no maps to pinpoint the additional areas to be handed over to the PA nor was there a precise specification of the percentage of the West Bank territory involved.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh said the pullback was discussed without reference to the Clinton administration's pressure on Netanyahu to enlarge the area from which IDF troops would withdraw and thereby assure Palestinian acceptance of the proposal.

Netanyahu's bureau announced after the meeting that the prime minister discussed the cabinet's decision-making process with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by telephone.

Sources believe Netanyahu would relinquish six percent to 8% of the West Bank, thereby giving the PA control over at least 35% of the area between the Green Line and the Jordan River.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon gave his cabinet colleagues a blunt assessment of the process under way since the inception of the Oslo Accords three years ago.

"Despite the fact that Israel does not want it, a Palestinian state is coming into existence," he said.

Sharon proposed two steps designed to reduce this "danger": designating security zones and strategic assets that must remain under Israeli control; and warning the PA that if a Palestinian state is declared, Israel would immediately annex all the territory on which settlements are situated, as well as their access roads.

The West Bank's security zones and military bases also would become part and parcel of the State of Israel, under Sharon's plan.

Netanyahu took a dim view of Sharon's assessment, arguing that the establishment of a Palestinian state is neither contemplated nor under discussion.

According to Israel Radio, Sharon's three-page plan calls for the annexation of 13 roads near Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. The roads would be designated as "bypass routes" for Israeli settlers. Sharon also reportedly called for 1,000 more homes for Jews in the 6,500-unit Har Homa project in southeastern Jerusalem.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat contended that the cabinet was actually considering a new approach to the peace process that was "tantamount to 'bypassing Oslo.'"

"It is impossible to implement the third redeployment and only afterwards discuss a final settlement," she said. "First of all, it is necessary to define Israel's vital interests." Everything hinges, she said, on the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments.

Netanyahu's adviser, Uzi Arad, went to Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top adviser, Osama el-Baz, yesterday.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (left), Third Way MK Yehuda Harel (center) and Likud MK Gideon Ezra study a map following yesterday's cabinet meeting on redeployment. (Itaac Harari)

Clinton, Netanyahu meeting in the works

By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

WASHINGTON - The White House said yesterday a meeting between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is in the works.

Press secretary Michael McCurry told reporters no conclusions should be drawn from the two having not met when Netanyahu visited the US earlier this month.

"They're attempting to work out a meeting, and we expect that to be done soon,"

McCurry said. "We've made a decision to have a meeting. I think we're just working out timing. I expect that one will be arranged soon."

The Israeli Embassy had stated Tuesday that on the instructions of Netanyahu's office it had stopped pursuing a meeting, preferring to wait until the White House determined which dates were workable.

Netanyahu yesterday criticized as "unbecoming" Clinton's refusal to meet with him during his recent US trip and suggested he was insulted.

"My own view is that leaders should avoid these kinds of tactics," he said in an interview with Cable News Network.

"It's unbecoming, it doesn't benefit nations who are allies, and even doesn't benefit nations who are not allies."

"I believe that the United States will probably agree with me if they thought about it," he added.

"I think such meetings should be [in] the interest of both leaders... It's certainly not something that Israel has to pay for," Netanyahu said in the interview.

Milo set to launch new centrist party

Eitan: PM trying to remove me from probe

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud demons briefly reappeared yesterday to baunt Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, when angry Science Minister Michael Eitan accused him of being behind moves to oust him from the party inquiry committee appointment.

Netanyahu hotly denied the assertion at the tail end of yesterday's Likud Knesset faction session, but Eitan said he doesn't buy the denial. The Likud inquiry is slated to get under way today.

It all started yesterday with a move by central committee kingpin Yitzhak Regev, who appealed to the party court to review the composition of the probe team, headed by the court's chairwoman, retired Tel Aviv District Court president Hanna Evenor.

The court will rule on the Regev petition Sunday. Regev noted that the other committee members - Eitan, MK Reuven Rivlin, Hod Hasharon Mayor Ezra Binayim and former Rishon LeZion mayor Hananye Gibstein - are not professional judges.

Regev reminded the court that the party constitution clearly specifies that such party probes are to be conducted only by professional judges from outside the party. The probe team, nominated by Netanyahu, hardly meets this specification, Regev charged.

His additional point was that even if the party court rejects his petition, it should at least remove

Eitan from the committee since "he had previously expressed extremely sharp-winded opinions calling vociferously for the ouster of Avigdor Lieberman from the office of director-general of the Prime Minister's Office."

Lieberman had since resigned on his own, but Regev said that considering Eitan's pronouncements, he "has no business serving on a probe team when he had already reached a one-sided conclusion before any inquiry had gotten under way."

Regev cited the precedent of former Mossad chief Nahum Admoni, who was removed from the committee investigating the Mashaal Affair because he had expressed his views in a radio interview.

Eitan yesterday charged that the man who sent Regev to file his petition to the party court was none other than Moshe Leon, currently Netanyahu's bureau

chief, and reportedly a candidate to succeed him.

Netanyahu replied by stating his disbelief and had Leon summoned immediately. The *Jerusalem Post* was told by two witnesses to the exchange between the prime minister and Eitan that Netanyahu then exclaimed: "This is utter slander. You know that no one would send anyone to do anything of the sort. I personally included your name as part of the team."

But when Leon showed up and tried to have his say, Eitan refused to listen and said he doesn't believe him and that Leon is Lieberman's man.

"I am ready to resign from the government if I am wrong," he said. According to Eitan, Leon went to Likud legal adviser Eitan Haberman to ask if he can remain on the inquiry committee in view of his utterances.

See EITAN, Page 17

Bassiouny: US fears stalled peace process will aid Islamic extremists

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny believes the US is "pushing hard" to move the Middle East peace process forward, for fear that continued stalemate will play into the hands of religious extremists in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Referring to next month's Islamic conference in Teheran, he warned that lack of progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track "will strengthen the antipeace camp" and thereby undermine regional stability.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, the veteran Egyptian envoy contended that American and European interests converge on the need to "shore up the area's stability."

Lucid, articulate and incisive throughout a wide-ranging question-and-answer session, Bassiouny seemed oblivious to the adverse publicity prompted



Mohammed Bassiouny

by allegations that he had sexually assaulted a belly dancer. A criminal investigation was closed last month for lack of evidence.

"I don't want to talk about that," he said. Instead, he analyzed such issues as the continuing confrontation between the US and the

US, the impact and influence of clandestine terrorist cells in Egypt, the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank and the pivotal role of Syria in his government's quest for a "comprehensive peace" between Israel and all the Arab states.

He saw no basis for a new US-led coalition that would encompass Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states, mirroring the alliance against Iraq formed on the eve of the Gulf War in 1990.

"It is a different situation now," he said. "At that time, Iraq invaded an Arab country [Kuwait]. We oppose any Arab country invading another."

Now, Egypt is against the use of military force, he went on, preferring diplomatic means to persuade Iraq that UN resolutions must be respected.

The full interview with Bassiouny will appear in tomorrow's paper.



مركز من الاصل

NEWS

in brief

Explosives thrown at IDF troops in Hebron

Several explosive devices were thrown at IDF troops in Hebron last night, but caused no injuries or damage. The first two devices were thrown at troops stationed near Beit Hadassah and a third at the "truck" market in the city.

The Hebron Jewish community demanded that IDF troops beef up security in the H2 area and prohibit all Palestinians from entering the area. They also demanded more lookouts points be erected along the boundary between H1 and H2.

IDF troops also discovered a small weapons cache in Kabaniya near Jenin. It contained cartridges and two grenades. Yesterday morning an Egged bus traveling from Jerusalem to Kiryat Arba came under a heavy barrage of stones near El Arub. No one was injured, the IDF Spokesman said.

Margot Dudkevitch

Arafat sends message to Saddam Hussein

PA official Azzam Ahmed brought a message from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday, in a meeting with Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saïd Sakaf, Ahmed discussed the peace process and the obstacles faced by the PA.

Ahmed thanked the Iraqi president for recognizing the Palestinian passport.

Mohammed Najib

Iraq executed spies recruited by Mossad - report

LONDON - Iraq's counterespionage service has uncovered and executed members of a network of spies who were allegedly recruited by the Mossad in northern Iraq, according to unnamed Israeli sources quoted by the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*. The newsletter, published yesterday, reported that "these agents provided valuable information about the army. Part of the network was uncovered about two months ago and high-tech equipment including radios were seized. The rest of the network was discovered recently; those involved were hanged."

The alleged espionage operation started after Mossad agents spotted a member of a leading Iraqi family in Istanbul. According to *Foreign Report*, there are "at least two other Israeli operations in northern Iraq."

Douglas Davis

Hunger striker reportedly in critical condition

Palestinian officials said yesterday a Palestinian woman on a hunger strike in an Israeli jail was in critical condition and had rejected a Palestinian Authority demand she end her fast. Yesterday was the 36th day of Itaf Alayan's hunger strike, aimed at securing her release.

PA official Hisham Abdel-Razek said he visited Alayan on Tuesday. "She refused a Palestinian Authority demand to end her strike and allow the authority to take up her case," he said. "She said she is either released from the Israeli jail or she continues her hunger strike until she dies." He described her physical condition as "very critical."

Reuters

PA releases Subbah

The Palestinian Authority ordered the release of Prof. Fathi Subbah, who was arrested by Gaza Preventive Security officials on July 2. Subbah was arrested after discussing corruption in the PA with his students at the Al-Azhar University in Gaza.

His release was requested by PA Attorney-General Faiz Abu Rahme and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat personally intervened in seeking his release. Claims that Subbah was tortured during his internment were upheld by Palestinian Human Rights activist Bassam Eid.

Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib

Sheetrit: I'm not scared of PA state

By LIAT COLLINS

Likud whip Meir Sheetrit declared yesterday that he supports the establishment of a Palestinian state while the Likud is in power.

Speaking at a party faction meeting, Sheetrit said: "I think we can reach an agreement with the PLO and the Palestinians. I'm not scared of them and I'm not scared of a Palestinian state."

"The most important thing is to initiate a Palestinian state while we're in power. If we [the Likud] initiate it ourselves we'll do it under the best conditions for Israel, preserving our vital interests," Sheetrit said.

Sheetrit said however he had red

lines. "Give me the choice of Jerusalem or peace and I will choose Jerusalem," he said.

He said if Israel does nothing, at the end of the process a Palestinian state would be created under less favorable conditions.

Sheetrit said he thought it is possible to reach an agreement on the permanent arrangements but he objected to Oslo 2, which would give the Palestinians most of the territories in the interim period.

According to an official briefing, the prime minister presented the Likud MKs with his ideas on furthering the process towards final-status talks. He stressed that the second further redeployment would be conditional on the Palestinians abiding by their com-

mitments and any further handing over of territory would be within the framework of the permanent arrangements.

Netanyahu said Israel insists that the Palestinians abolish the Palestinian Covenant, reduce the number of the Palestinian policemen and stop Palestinian Authority activity in east Jerusalem.

Netanyahu stressed that it is up to the Palestinians to prove that they are carrying out the agreements. "We have so far carried out our obligations, except for the second and third redeployments, but they have not carried out their obligation and therefore we will not go on to the redeployments."

He noted that Israel has with-

drawn from 80 percent of Hebron, released prisoners, and is holding advanced negotiations in all the working committees.

Science Minister Michael Eitan said he supported starting the final-status negotiations on condition the government takes significant steps to strengthen Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

MKs Ze'ev Begin and Uzi Landau objected to any withdrawal from the territories. "We can't give the Palestinians even a millimeter," said Landau. "Israel is taking on military risks. We can't give up anything at the moment. We must reassess the process."

Likud MK Gideon Ezra later said Sheetrit could not continue to

act as party whip while supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

A meeting that did not take place was also cause for discussion in the Knesset corridors yesterday: Netanyahu was forced to cancel a meeting with coalition MKs when too few turned up. One of the topics on the agenda was apparently the fact that the coalition MKs did not turn out in sufficient numbers to block opposition-led bills.

Only some eight MKs and ministers arrived for the scheduled meeting. After waiting some 20 minutes in vain for more, Sheetrit was forced to call it off.

He said he would reschedule the meeting next week.

Settlers lobby against further pullbacks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and SARAH HONG

Settlement leaders continued their feverish efforts to prevent any further redeployment, pressuring MKs and government ministers to vote against the planned withdrawal from eight percent of Judea and Samaria.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, charged that if the government votes for a withdrawal the lives of the settlement residents will be endangered.

The first stage withdrawal of 2% that was raised earlier in the year and rejected by Yasser Arafat threatened a majority of the Samaritan communities and isolated settlements such as Karnei Tsur and Tekoa. The percentage of land currently being discussed will isolate communities in the Hebron area and the surrounding mountains, Gush Etzion, and most of the communities in Samaria, such as Pith Hever, Carmel and Maon.

Tayar charged that the size of the withdrawal compares with the area of Greater Tel Aviv. "What will happen to communities that are suddenly surrounded by Area A, under total Palestinian control?"

The council, she said had received numerous calls from settlers disturbed by the government's proposal and were concerned how their community would be affected.

"The government of Israel and the IDF are responsible for the security of their citizens. How will they be able to safeguard their rights when they will find themselves living in Area A?"

Another important issue, said Tayar, is water, since 35% of Israel's fresh water comes from the hills in Samaria.

The National Religious Party, meanwhile, told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that any further redeployment would be unacceptable "unless Israel first decides on and spells out its demands for the country's final borders."

Should this not be done, the faction will convene again to decide on what course to follow, it was announced.

Yesterday's lengthy faction deliberations followed a hard-line stance taken by the party's two ministers during the earlier cabinet session. The differences of opinion inside the NRP centered mainly on whether or not opposition to redeployment should be accompanied by a threat to bring down the government.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer spoke out forcefully against redeployment and vowed "to struggle against this plan. We will seek to put together a solid united front against it. There is simply no chance whatever that we can vote for this notion."



Nazi spoils?

Rabbi Henry Sobel holds a case containing 21 rings with precious stones yesterday. The case was found in a safe deposit box in Sao Paulo, Brazil, together with up to \$4.5 million in cash and gold, which authorities suspect Nazi fugitives may have stolen from Holocaust victims. Sobel is a member of Brazil's recently created Special Commission for the Search of Nazi Money.

Barak warns of 'guerrilla war' in the territories

By SARAH HONG and ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday warned of the "outbreak of a guerrilla war by the Palestinians if an agreement they deem satisfactory is not reached soon."

"What is offered them now is inadequate and does not meet their demands. This can lead to scenes, compared to which the intifada would pale. This is because the Palestinians now control territory and can mount warfare from their areas. Moreover, they are armed and can use rifles instead of rocks. This is a whole different situation."

He also warned that "there is no telling where the situation could deteriorate from there. It could very well embroil us at later stages in a war with Syria and the rest of the Arab world, while Netanyahu has managed to cross our best friend in the world, the US."

A foreign intelligence report says that the IDF is not properly prepared for the possibility of a guerrilla war breaking out in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that any attempt to recapture these territories could be very costly to IDF forces.

According to *Jane's Intelligence Review*, the IDF could recapture the most key points held by the Palestinians within 24 hours, but this could lead to between 200 and 2,000 Israeli fatalities, depending on the degree of firepower the IDF uses.

PA warns Hamas to hold off terror attacks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB and ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Palestinian Authority security officials warned Hamas leaders to refrain from carrying out terrorist attacks yesterday, expressing concern that terror attacks would impede current redeployment discussions.

Gaza Hamas leader Abdul Azziz Rantisi denied this. At a meeting that Rantisi had with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and Sheikh Ahmed Yassin three weeks ago, Arafat did not ask Hamas to refrain from carrying out "operations" against Israel, Rantisi said.

Rantisi called the peace negotiations between Israel and the PA meaningless and said there was no connection between the peace process and Hamas' operations.

"If Israel refused Sheikh Ahmad Yassin's initiative to call a ceasefire, it is obvious that Israel intends to continue with the occupation. Our resistance will continue," he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, 41 Islamic Jihad and Hamas activists in Nabulus prison agreed to halt their hunger strike after PA Preventive Security Service head Col. Jibril Rajoub promised they would be released last night or today. Rajoub visited the prisoners on Monday.

Palestinian Human Rights activist Bassam Eid said that Arafat, not Rajoub, had decided to release the prisoners.

DEPARTURES

Raya Jaglom, a Vice President World Jewish Congress to London to attend W.J.C. Executive Meeting

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

MYER TODES

The funeral will take place on Friday, November 28, 1997, at 2 p.m. at Kibbutz Yizra'el.

The family and Kibbutz Yizra'el

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

deeply mourns the passing of

ADA SERENI

Ph.D. Honoris Causa of the Weizmann Institute of Science

With deep sorrow, we regret to announce that our beloved

NAOMI BEECHAM

has passed away peacefully.

The funeral will commence at Sharrigar Funeral Parlor, tomorrow, Friday, November 28, 1997, at 9 a.m., and proceed to the Mount of Olives Cemetery.

The Family

Shiva at 34 Rehov Ramat Hagolan, Ramat Eshkol, Jerusalem.

The unveiling of the tombstone of JOSEPH M. WEISSMAN

of Far Rockaway, New York

will take place on Friday, November 28, 1997 at 10 a.m. at the Sanhedria Cemetery.

The Weissman family

We mourn the loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather

Dr. RALPH SPIRA

Wife: Miriam Spira (née Walk)
Daughters: Judith, Yigal, Orit, Hadar Bar-Shalom
Daniella, Dr. Eldad, Harel, Alon, Amit Rechavia
and families

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, November 27, at 2 p.m., at Ramat Hasharon Cemetery.
Shiva: 12 Rehov Nehardea, Tel Aviv.

The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

The public is invited to a lecture by Dr. Heribert Weiland

"National Reconciliation in Southern Africa"

Sunday, November 30, 1997, at 12 noon, at the Ofer Hall, The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

"Tears in the Green - The Rwandan Tragedy - Three Years Later"

A Photo Exhibition by Erez T. Yanuv
Ofer Hall foyer, November 30 until December 24

Rehov Kanfei Nesharim, corner of Natan Alterman, Herzliya

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Sweet protest

Diabetics dump sugar outside the main offices of Kupat Holim Clalit in Tel Aviv yesterday to protest its refusal to provide medications that improve the health of diabetics. The Tel Aviv Labor Court will begin hearing a class action suit today of the Israel Diabetics' Association and three of its members against the health minister and the health fund. (Israel Sun)

Shi'ites protest Beit Leif shellings

By DAVID RUDGE

Several hundred angry Shi'ite residents of the security zone protested outside UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday over the Beit Leif village "massacre." The protesters carried placards and chanted slogans denouncing the Lebanese government for giving its auspices to those responsible for the shelling, in which eight people were killed and several others wounded.

The Amal Shi'ite organization was believed to be responsible for the rocket and mortar attack on Beit Leif village on Sunday. It appeared to have acted in coordination with Hizbullah gunmen.

Yesterday's demonstration coincided with a meeting at UNIFIL's headquarters of the five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee.

The protesters, some of them waving photographs of those killed in the shelling and chanting "Allah Akbar," demanded a meeting with representatives of the monitoring committee. They met with UNIFIL's senior

political advisor Timur Goksel and presented him with a petition which he promised to pass to the committee.

Israel has complained to the committee over the shelling of Beit Leif, as well as Katyusha rocket fire into western Galilee and two incidents of shooting from inside villages north of the zone - all in breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings. The incidents all occurred on Sunday.

An examination of fragments of the shells that hit the village revealed that they had been manufactured by Iran's military industry, according to writing on them.

The pro-Syrian Beirut daily *As-Safir* yesterday called for a thorough examination of the Beit Leif incident in light of the civilian casualties.

"It is easy to put the blame on the enemy because it is, first and foremost, the cause of the military problems in south Lebanon... But what happened in Beit Leif needs the most honest and courageous attention by all concerned," the newspaper wrote in an editorial.

"The proper approach is to

carry out an exhaustive investigation... which must be official and made public to prevent recurrences," said the newspaper which was one of the few to comment on the Beit Leif incident.

Meanwhile, the IDF's commander of the western region of the security zone and along the northern border, Col. Nimrod, said that, after a period of relative quiet, Amal was returning to the battleground in south Lebanon.

"Hizbullah is the dominant organization in the region. Amal, however, after a break for a certain period is trying to return to intensive [hostile] activities," said Nimrod.

"[Amal] is being supported by Hizbullah, with the aid of guides and other things. This is part of attempts to join forces and hit us every possible way."

"We are succeeding quite well in preventing this - and we do not differentiate between Amal and Hizbullah," he said.

"At least seven gunmen have been killed and as many as 10 others wounded by IDF troops in fighting in south Lebanon in the past few days."

Bronfman: Clinton is wrong about not meeting Netanyahu

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

US President Bill Clinton's inability to find time to see Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the White House was assailed yesterday by World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman.

"I think Clinton is wrong to have rejected the prime minister to the extent that he did," Bronfman said.

He said the warm welcome given by Clinton to Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres, "could be interpreted as interference in Israeli politics."

He criticized the Clinton administration's attitude toward Netanyahu, saying it should show more understanding of the prime minister's domestic political problems.

Reflecting on the discussion he had with Netanyahu during his

current stay here, Bronfman came to the conclusion that "his problem is his coalition."

Netanyahu told Bronfman and senior officials that he was "pushing the peace envelope as far as he can," Bronfman went on, referring to the current formula for redeployment in the West Bank.

Deputy Defense Minister Shlomo Shalom told the Knesset plenum yesterday that the opposition's emissaries in the US acted to prevent a meeting between Netanyahu and Clinton.

"Israel has no intention of handing over strategic assets for a meeting," Shalom said. "A meeting with the US president is important, but the prime minister ordered a halt in the dealings concerning a meeting if it is conditional on agreeing to concessions."

The government will not change

its policy, and the opposition must stop fanning the flames against the prime minister in the US, he said.

Meretz whip Haim Oron said Clinton is not frustrated by the fact that Netanyahu does not give in to his dictates, but by the fact that Netanyahu does not carry out his own decisions regarding the Hebron Agreement.

"We are not talking about a policy," Oron said. "There have been differences of opinion and friction between Israel and the US in the past. We are speaking about friction stemming from the negative traits of Netanyahu and the positive traits of Clinton, who is grating his teeth and trying to preserve the relationship."

Oron said Netanyahu is endangering his relationship with the only country that still stands by Israel and is the basis of its economic existence.

Coalition fails in bid to reject welfare bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The coalition suffered another stinging defeat in the Knesset plenum yesterday when Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eil Yishai's efforts to reject an opposition-led bill failed. The bill passed its preliminary reading 34 to 32 even though Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu broke off the cabinet discussions on the further redeployment and mobilized his government ministers for the plenum vote on the bill which would increase national insurance aid to working parents.

Netanyahu reportedly later asked United Torah Judaism leader Meir Porush where his MKs were at the time of the vote, only to be reminded by Porush that Likud MKs left the room last week before a vote on the arch-enemy bill which the religious parties tried to pass. Last week a string of opposition bills passed in the plenum.

Likud whip Meir Sheerit lost his temper with UTJ MKs Moshe Gafni and Shmuel Halperit yesterday after two bills by Gafni passed preliminary reading. The bills, opposed by the government because of the cost, would improve aid to apartment buyers.

As the vote passed, Sheerit shouted at Gafni threatening that he would next week bring up the bill calling for the draft of yeshiva students. The scene caused Deputy Speaker Shevah Weiss to remind him that "Coalition

threats and promises have no place in the plenum. Do what you want outside of the plenum where it's not my business."

Gafni told Sheerit that his objections to the bill "are just an attempt to cover up the fact that the coalition is not functioning."

The dispute between the two worsened this week when Gafni accused Sheerit of breaking a promise to him that a UTJ MK would be elected to the body which selects members of the chief rabbinate.

Yesterday's bill was raised by MK Yael Dayan (Labor), based on work by Na'amat, and calls for larger national insurance payments to help families with children younger than six when both parents work.

Yishai voiced his objections based on Finance Ministry assessments that it would cost the state NIS 1.1 billion a year to implement. Yishai said the budget does not exist and would have to be taken from elsewhere. Parents would receive NIS 302 for the first child instead of NIS 154 and would get extra benefit points for each additional child under six years old.

Yishai also objected to the fact that it would apply to all parents without distinguishing between different income groups. The bill was raised at the same time the Knesset Finance Committee is discussing cuts to the child allowance for first and second children, he said.

Opposition calls for probe into jubilee funds

By LIAT COLLINS

Ran Cohen (Meretz) has asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to open a police investigation of the prime minister over the organization of the 50th anniversary celebrations in the Diaspora.

MK Yossi Katz (Labor), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, has demanded details of the agreement between the Prime Minister's Office and millionaire Merv Adelson regarding the same issue.

Cohen said Netanyahu had ordered the heads of the 50th anniversary celebrations organizing committee to pay Adelson's expenses to the tune of some \$300,000 and that Adelson had been granted a budget of \$3 million.

Cohen said Adelson donated money to Netanyahu during the Likud primary elections. He said the situation raises questions about a possible criminal breach of trust.

"The events that were meant to emphasize national unity and our history are being organized in a Cheim-like manner," Katz said. He said the prime minister had made the appointment without informing Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav, who heads the Ministerial Ceremonies and Symbols Committee.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office responded that the celebrations are under the strict supervision of a monitoring body and that every expense and

payment has to be approved by this body.

He said Adelson and another man mentioned by Katz are well-known Jewish activists who volunteered to contribute their time, talents and connections for the celebrations.

The appointment was made with the approval of the ceremonies and symbols committee and of the government.

The two men did not donate to either the Likud or the prime minister's last election campaigns and they are not being paid for their work now, the spokesman said.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

PM tries for pullback

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's efforts to obtain support for the implementation of his second redeployment plan in order to advance the peace process are "too little too late," writes *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev.

He claims that under other circumstances, the disagreements between the Israelis, the Americans and the Palestinians could have been bridged, but "with the lack of trust [between the parties], Netanyahu's proposals are doomed to rejection."

Yediot Aharonot's Ronni Shaked refers to Netanyahu's opposition in his own camp. He claims that the right wing's fear of a second redeployment, prompted by their belief that this move would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, is unfounded because "a Palestinian state is an existing fact."

Shaked indicates that the Palestinians have acquired all of the characteristics of an independent state and the only reason that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat does not announce its independence lies in his fear that "it would provide Israel with a legitimate excuse to cancel agreements."

"It is important to maintain good relations with the US, but it is even more important to keep the promises to the voters," states *Ma'ariv's* Haggai Segal, who adds that "instead of giving President Clinton false promises, one should say 'no; it might miraculously

boost Netanyahu's credibility and revive his government."

Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Schiff focuses on the psychological pressure being applied to Netanyahu and the open question: Will Netanyahu be able to get his plan approved by his difficult coalition members?

Lieberman saga

Avigdor Lieberman's aggressive press conference, followed by the news he might be charged with fraud, generated extensive commentary.

"Lieberman has proven that he is still Netanyahu's loyal messenger, and not only is he far from abandoning political activity, he is ready to wage a war," claims *Yediot's* Bina Barzel, following Lieberman's personal attacks on Likud members.

She adds, however, that if the case against him will develop, "it might suffocate the crossfire initiated by the resigning director-general."

"Until yesterday, it was Lieberman who was said to strengthen Netanyahu, today, it is obvious that the greatest supporter of the lame duck is a wounded bear," write Ron Melberg and Amnon Dankner for *Ma'ariv*.

Ha'aretz's Yossi Vertter asserts that Lieberman's speech reflects "upon Netanyahu's purification plan for the Likud," adding that by marking the rebellious ministers as targets, Lieberman has actually marked Netanyahu by provoking the ministers' wrath.

Unemployment

The rise in the unemployment rate "will engulf more and more citizens and will eventually shake the existing foundations of our democracy," claims Meir Bleich in *Ma'ariv*.

"Whoever knows how to read the budget agenda, has deciphered the national agenda for the coming year, and it is an anti-citizen agenda of a society under siege," writes Ya'acov Yona, also in *Ma'ariv*. He adds that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry will suffer severe cuts, "just at a time when plants close down and there is accelerating government need for professional support and employment alternatives."

Problems with Bill

The decision by the Prime Minister's Office to stop trying to arrange a meeting between Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton "is a small announcement of independence; let us hope that he continues in this direction," states Emmal Elon in *Yediot*. She adds that "if the US is to stop dictating Israel's political agenda, Israel must get used to deciding her own agenda."

"It was not Netanyahu who stopped the negotiations, but Clinton once he shook hands with Shimon Peres and Leah Rabin [last week]," writes *Ha'aretz's* Akiva Eldor.

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הכרזה על החגיגות

Teachers postpone sanctions

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Secondary School Teachers Association yesterday announced it was calling off its sanctions for a two-week period, after negotiations were launched shortly after a marathon, six-hour Knesset Education Committee.

The association said that during the two-week period it would conduct substantive talks with the Education and Finance ministries on proper implementation of its contract, signed in 1994, regarding pay for accompanying pupils on school trips and other events outside the school, and on the matter of principals' salaries and authority.

A spokeswoman for the association said the decision to temporarily lift the sanctions was due to the mediation of the Knesset Education Committee, led by

committee chairman Emanuel Zissman.

Representatives of the Finance Ministry were summoned to the meeting, and the association began negotiations at the Knesset yesterday afternoon, following an earlier meeting of the committee on the sanctions issue in the morning.

That session was a stormy one, with representatives of several groups most affected by the halting of school trips - including the Habima and Cameri theaters, the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel - and MKs sharply criticizing the teachers for the sanctions.

Reacting to the attacks, association chairman Ran Erez said: "How were the teachers' sanctions expressed? By their refusing to volunteer. Suddenly it turned out that many rely on our working for



Zissman: A major achievement

nothing to make a living. Everyone tells us we're justified, and where does this get us?"

According to an association spokeswoman, the agreement reached at the session stipulates

that negotiations will focus on compensating teachers who accompany pupils to activities outside school by having that time counted as work hours or in some other agreed-upon fashion. Negotiations regarding principals' salaries and authority will also continue with the Education Ministry, with the conclusions reached in those talks brought to the Knesset Education Committee in two weeks.

If the Finance Ministry refuses to accept an agreed-upon solution worked out between the Education Ministry and the teachers, the Education Committee will support the teachers and use its influence to get the Finance Ministry to accept the agreement.

Speaking after the meeting, Zissman said: "I see this as a major achievement. I used a great deal of pressure, both from the

committee and myself, and I'm very happy the sanctions were stopped."

He said the committee's willingness to put its influence behind any agreed-upon formula worked out between the Education Ministry and the association was "an incentive" to get the two sides to reach agreement.

"In such a case, we'll put all the tools at our disposal to see it through and see to it that the Finance Ministry agrees to this," he said. "There had been an agreement on this before, but then the president backed out of it, and the president couldn't do, I did, but I'm not a candidate for president. We'll do all we can now so that the sanctions aren't renewed in two weeks, but rather that this agreement will turn into a permanent one."



Asha Kenzi Chief Rabbi Yisroel Lau shakes hands yesterday with Stephen Flatow, whose daughter Alisa was killed in a terror attack at Kfar Darom in April 1995. Flatow, who lives in New Jersey, told Lau that he intends to immigrate to Israel. (Brian Henders)

Radio sexologist loses show

The sound of the bride and groom may be heard in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, but not sexologist Dr. Yaakov Meir-Weil's advice program "Al Pi Shnayim Yakum."

The call-in show, broadcast on local station Radin Yerushalayim, has been pulled from the air after haredi groups allegedly threatened to take away the kashrut certificate of station owner Micha Levy's capital banquet hall if the program was not dropped.

The program, in which the Hadassah Medical Center sexology unit head offered advice to callers in a program similar to what Dr. Ruth Westheimer does in the US, was yanked off the air a week ago Monday, with Meir-Weil given only six hours' notice.

"They called me and said they were taking it off the air," Meir-Weil said. No real explanation for the decision was given to him, he said. However, "this very short notice I received does not show radio planning, but yielding to pressures, but I have no idea where they came from."

However, a source close to the program said: "As far as I know there was some kind of pressure put on Levy from religious circles or rabbis. They told him they would take away the kashrut cer-

tificate from his banquet hall."

Levy owns the Nof Catering Hall in Jerusalem's Shalom Hotel, located in Bayit Vagan, a mostly religious neighborhood.

Levy denied there were any threats made regarding the program. "There were a few calls from people who said the program was too vulgar. So we haven't yet taken it off the air completely. We've decided to delay it for a while. We are evaluating the program, weighing what to do, and all the steps we've taken are temporary. We will check the matter. It's possible it will return; it may not."

A request for a response from Deputy Mayor Haim Miller's office was answered by a woman who said the decision to take the program off was "excellent," and who asked the caller not to even talk to her about the matter. Miller himself could not be reached for comment.

Meir-Weil said he has been doing the show for about five months, "and until now there were no complaints. Nobody spoke to me, or asked me to change anything. Nobody tried to censor it or asked me to change language or content. Feedback was good, many people were calling in, so I had no reason to try to change it."

Many callers to the program have identified themselves as

being religious, Meir-Weil said, but added the program wasn't directed at such people.

Dr. Uri Wernik, director of Misgav Ladach Hospital's sex therapy clinic, said he was surprised by the move. Although he said he was not familiar with the show specifically, "Judaism overall has a very positive approach toward sex; it's regarded as a mitzva. It's not just for the sake of having children, but also for the couple to be together. The idea of sexuality is supposed to have a certain degree of modesty attached to it, but proper discussions of it should not bother people, even in religious circles."

Sharon, a Jerusalemite who said she had regularly listened to the program, said she had found it "very interesting and fun to listen to. It was nice to know that if you had a question, you had someone to turn to where you didn't have to feel embarrassed. After all, everyone has questions, and it's not the kind of thing you talk about at the Shabbat dinner table. It was nice to have a forum for such things. The haredim obviously are busy having sex, judging by the number of children they have, and it would seem to me that they could benefit from such a program, since they're much less likely to talk among themselves about such things."

Striking rail workers threaten to blow up Dimona

Striking Israel Railways employees in Dimona yesterday harricaded themselves among wagons of chemicals from the Dead Sea Works, as part of a dispute between IR and Israel Chemicals.

On Tuesday the strikers threatened to blow up the whole town if they are dismissed from their jobs. They broke into a city council meeting and locked Mayor Gabi Lalouche in the railway station. Lalouche was released by police and the fire brigade. According to the demonstrators, the dangerous chemicals, which have been in the station for 48 hours, could set off a huge explosion.

IR wants to fire 40 workers following a sharp drop in the amount of freight carried in the last four months, due to the ending of an agreement with Israel Chemicals after IR refused IC's request to lower freight charges by 40 percent. IC is therefore sending most of its freight by

road, despite the environmental dangers involved.

Israel Railways' director-general Amos Uzani says the strike is unjustified. It was not coordinated with the Histadrut and was not announced in advanced and is thus illegal, he said.

IR is taking steps together with the Histadrut to improve efficiency in accordance with a 1994 agreement calling for a reduction in the number of employees and changes in methods of freight transport to reduce the railways' deficit and enable the reduction of freight charges. Uzani stressed that without taking these steps IR would almost certainly be forced to stop transporting freight altogether and hundreds of workers would be dismissed.

He stated that strikers who do not return to work immediately would be held legally responsible for damage caused to customers.

Demonstrating workers called on government ministers to do everything possible to prevent the dismissals.

NEWS

in brief

One dead in Lower Galilee collision

The driver of a pickup truck was killed yesterday in a collision with another truck near the Beit Rimon Junction in Lower Galilee. The pickup was heading toward the junction when it veered suddenly and collided head-on with the semitrailer. It took firefighters a long time to extract the driver's body from the wreckage. His identity had not yet been released at press time. *Itim*

Police confiscate weapons, drugs in Ramle

Police confiscated weapons and drugs and detained nine people yesterday during a raid in Ramle. Some 300 police participated in the raid in the Juarish neighborhood, where a feud between the Jarussi and Karaji clans has claimed 23 lives in the past five years. *Itim*

Surgery removes hair from women's abdomen

A large ball of hair 25 centimeters long that completely blocked the stomach of a 20-year-old woman was removed in emergency surgery at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. The young woman began to suffer a few weeks ago from loss of weight and lack of appetite. The doctors, who could feel a large mass in her abdomen, at first thought it was a tumor, but a computerized tomography scan showed it was a ball of hair, which is known in medical terminology as trichobezoar. After questioning her, she admitted to having swallowed strands of her own hair for years due to stress. After the operation, performed by Prof. Moshe Engelberg of the general surgery department, her pains stopped, her appetite returned and her functioning became normal. *Judy Siegel*

MKS get checked for oral cancer

Even though excessive talking doesn't cause oral cancer, Israel Dental Association representatives visited the Knesset this week to check the mouths of MKs and House staffers.

According to the IDA, oral cancer is among the least known to the public, but about 300 new cases are diagnosed each year. Because the symptoms are often noted late, the tumors may metastasize to the lymph glands and other parts of the body at a late stage, when it cannot be treated.

The dentists noted that if people visited their dentist regularly for a checkup, oral cancer could be diagnosed in time for effective treatment in most cases. But only a quarter of the public visit their dentist regularly. The IDA came to the Knesset to increase public awareness of the disease. *Judy Siegel*

IDF arrests drug suspect in Lebanon

Assaf Assaf, of Ramish, a village in southern Lebanon, was arrested and brought to Israel Tuesday on suspicion of drug trafficking here. The arrest followed an unprecedented wave of drug smuggling from Lebanon and the capture of 12 kilograms of drugs over the past month. Assaf's remand was extended yesterday for 15 days. In requesting the remand, the police said Assaf had smuggled large amounts of drugs and had distributed them throughout the country. Assaf was arrested a year and a half ago for a similar alleged offense and was released by the district court after a long remand. *Itim*

Two people treated for CO poisoning in Haifa

Two of six members of a Jerusalem family overcome with carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas heater were rushed yesterday to the hyperbaric chamber attached to Haifa's Rambam Hospital to force the gas out of their bloodstream.

They were the first victims of CO poisoning in the capital this winter, over 100 people are poisoned by carbon monoxide each year. There even have been some deaths.

The family, consisting of parents, grandparents and children aged 12 and 16, was taken by Magen David Adom ambulance to Hadassah-University Hospital in Mt. Scopus after succumbing to the odorless, tasteless and colorless gas emitted by their gas heater. The grandfather and mother, who suffered complications, were taken for treatment to the Haifa facility, which in the summer treats divers suffering from "the bends."

Avraham Halbersberg, head of MDA's Jerusalem branch, noted that every year families who have not properly used or maintained their gas heaters are overcome with CO poisoning. Jerusalem is especially susceptible because of the use of these heaters, especially the "Junkers" type that heat an entire apartment and is often illegally installed or operated in a closed-in bathroom or balcony where there is too little air.

Halbersberg urged owners of gas heating systems to have them checked each year before the onset of winter and to leave open windows to reduce the risk. He said members of the haredi community in Jerusalem are frequent victims as many use gas heaters but don't know how to operate or maintain them or they close in balconies for more living space. He recommended information campaigns in synagogues and schools.

Ex-buyer for Defense Ministry sentenced for fraud

Haim Oron, a former Defense Ministry buyer based in New York, was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment yesterday for fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes. The Tel Aviv District Court also gave Oron a 21-month suspended sentence and fined him NIS 150,000.

As the sentence was read, a fight broke out in the courtroom between a Ma'ariv photographer and Oron's relatives, who tried to stop him from taking pictures. The fight continued when they left the courtroom, ending only when security officials intervened.

Oron, 45, of Ramat Gan, submitted bills to the ministry that were significantly higher than the

cost of products it was buying from US weapons companies. He then split the difference with the companies' salesmen.

Oron pocketed \$50,000. His actions cost the ministry NIS 500,000, according to the prosecution.

Judge Adina Kaplan-Hegler said she took into account Oron's clean record and his colleagues' positive testimony as to his character, as well as the fact that he had not confessed or expressed regret.

Oron's crime was one of the most serious breaches of trust by a state employee, the judge said. She acceded to a request by Oron's lawyer that he start serving his sentence in mid-January. *(Itim)*

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Pipe dreams
LARRY DERFNER

Weekender

body depicts humanity like 'One Night Stand' director Mike Figgis

By TED ANTHONY

Mike Figgis is a master filmmaker. *Leaving Las Vegas*, his haunting portrait of alcoholism, prostitution and desperate romance, peeled back the layers of life's searier side for a movie so painful it was almost unwatchable.

His latest offering, *One Night Stand*, which opened in Israeli cinemas this week, focuses on regular, upper-middle-class people, the kind anyone could meet. But its theme — the mischosen path, the life unravelled — is identical.

It matches the mastery of *Leaving Las Vegas* in both character and story, and is just as harrowing — which makes it all the more sad that the end is so utterly disappointing.

Figgis wrote, directed, co-produced and scored *One Night Stand* and even pulled a Hitchcockian trick. He wanted it, he said, to form three acts — bittersweet affair, breakdown of a marriage and tale of the characters' ultimate paths. In these he succeeds mightily.

Max Carlyle (Wesley Snipes) directs commercials. He lives in Los Angeles with a drop-dead gorgeous and intelligent wife Mimi (Natasja Kinski) and two young children. He visits New York on business and to see his old friend Charlie (Robert Downey Jr.), who is dying of AIDS.

Blocked from the airport by a series of only-in-New-York obstacles, Max ends up befriending Karen (Natasja Kinski), also on business and in New York on business. After a parking-lot mugging, their vulnerability bubbles over into hotel-room passion.

Max returns to Los Angeles and his family, but things are different. His outlook on life has changed. He is combative and remote toward Mimi and increasingly sarcastic at work, prompting a potentially lucrative client to walk out.

As Charlie nears death, Max and Mimi return to New York to his bedside, and Max finds that Charlie's brother Vernon (Kyle MacLachlan) is married to Karen. Thus Max and Karen are forced to face their passion in the darkest of circumstances as Charlie wastes away.



Karen (Natasja Kinski) and Max (Wesley Snipes) are forced to face their passion in the darkest of circumstances.

One-man stand

Figgis stands above almost every 1990s filmmaker in his ability to re-create pure humanity — his gestures, our conversations, our interactions. Nowhere else on the American screen do relationships seem so real, so visceral. A sneeze, a God-bless-you, the way Mimi accidentally hits Max with her arm as they cuddle in bed — all of these little mannerisms, captured, form a believable pastiche of what it is to be human.

The use of music in *One Night Stand* is also memorable — not only for the score itself but how it functions. Figgis uses it to drown out dialogue so facial expressions and body movements are emphasized. Even his dialogue is sometimes used as a mask — small talk that deliberately bores you into watching rather than listening.

Snipes shows a depth here beyond his previous work, and though he is the focus of the film, he knows when to pull back and

let the other characters take center stage.

Kinski is simultaneously mature and unsettlingly girlish, but it's not her ripe-young-things girlishness of yore. She reaches farther back, blending childlike vulnerability with a distinctly adult mien.

Ming-na Wen, one of the most beautiful actresses in the business today, proves here she can hold her own with the most talented. Her portrayal of Mimi is perhaps the most human of them all —

simultaneously fiery and vulnerable, relevant and irrelevant, trying to participate in her marriage but ultimately reduced to watching it crumble.

And MacLachlan emerges once and for all from the shadow of David Lynch, lending a sense of controlled futility and melancholy to Vernon.

Downey, of course, is a talented actor and always has been. He imbues Charlie with an emotional memory of pain and makes him a

virtual Greek chorus for Max. And AIDS is the constant backdrop, the reminder of mortality — not death, but mortality.

Toward the end, the couples dine together and Vernon waxed about his brother's demise. "You don't watch someone playing in the middle of a minefield and not expect to hear an explosion," he says. The message rings clear: The comment perfectly fits Max and Karen.

Figgis and his troupe have much of which to be proud. His world is

like ours: Passion bubbles over. Compromises are made. Events can happen that elevate you and bring you down at the same time. Places within people are awakened that they never knew existed. And things fall apart.

One Night Stand, a landmark depiction of modern infidelity, possesses the moral relativism that *Fatal Attraction* lacked. Were it not for the trite ending, it could have been one of the year's best pictures. (Associated Press)

Monkey business

By AMY KLEIN

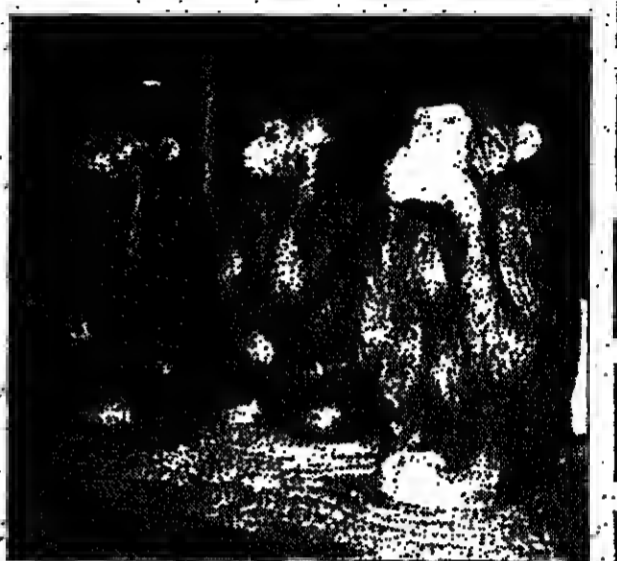
Though Eilat — with its overcrowded marinas, beaches and boardwalks — has turned cheesy in recent years, it still has a lot going for it. For one thing, tourism is still going strong, even during the low season of late November. And to cater to visitors there is a plethora of activities to fill the sparkling, sunny days.

But at night, there is a more limited selection. The best bet, after a romantic evening stroll down the streetware-crowded North Beach boardwalk, is Three Monkeys Pub. Part of the Royal Beach Hotel, just past the boardwalk bridge, this large pub/club starts spilling out onto the boardwalk shortly after midnight.

The show starts at 11 p.m., 11:30 on Fridays, and there's no cover charge. You have to get there early; the place opens at 9 p.m.

What makes Three Monkeys Pub so popular are the bands. Imported from Europe and especially England, they are the "best" of the bar-scene bands, selected by the Three Monkeys' "talent scouts" around the world.

Every three weeks a new band takes the stage, doing covers of pop, rock, Motown, Sixties and Eighties music. Some do more than covers, like last year's Flying Embers, who dressed, looked and sounded so much like Queen that it was



as if they raised Freddy Mercury from his grave; others do combinations, changing their sound a little bit every night, or the styles of music between the three half-hour sets.

This month's band, Bernadette Wilde from Newcastle, is a six-person band with a leggy, throaty lead singer that does lounge-style versions of both Motown and pop numbers.

The show goes till about 2:30 or 3 a.m., and the crowd changes between sets, so there may be hope for you to get in if you come real late. This rowdy, raucous room — which seats 250 and holds up to 350, standing — is just what people coming to Eilat are looking for: a place to wind down, scream and shout to the music, and for the daring, hit the dance floor in the center.

Except for the foreign beers, the food (kosher) and drinks are reasonably priced for Eilat. The crowd is eclectic — the nationality depends on the season; right now there are a lot of British and German visitors. There is also a fair share of locals. (It was here that we spotted the newest bizarre Israeli trend: guys wearing headbands. Not soft sweatbands, but the hard, puffy ones that little girls wear to hold their hair back. Go figure.)

Three Monkeys Pub Manager, Eli Saamani, summed up why the place is always overflowing: "Haviva," he said. It's an acronym that translates as "It's a waste of time." But in the latest Israeli opposite-slang this means it's anything but.

Three Monkeys Pub, The Royal Beach Hotel North Beach, Boardwalk, Eilat (07) 636-8888

CDs on my mind

Actress Orna Porat talks about her favorite discs

Orna Porat, one of the great figures in Israeli theater, was this year nominated for best supporting actress in Yossi Soffer's film, *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Fields*. Her colorful prizes include the Israel Prize, the Israel Theater Life Achievement Award and an honorary doctorate from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

She's currently playing in *Most Cruel the King* at Habimah and next month starts rehearsals for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Beersheba Theater. And she's nominally retired, following a more than 40-year career at the Cameri Theater, which she joined following her immigration from her native Germany in 1947. She also founded the Children and Youth Theater which was named for her two years ago when CYT celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Porat has two adopted children, Lital and Yoram. A year ago she lost her husband, Yosef, after 50 years of marriage.

1. *The Messiah* — Handel
"I think it's connected to my children. I wanted children and I couldn't have any, so the chorus 'Unto us a child is born' is especially poignant. I adopted Yoram first, then Lital. No," she says with a laugh, "the chorus didn't run through my mind when I first hugged Yoram. Maybe if I were making a movie, I'd use it."
2. Thomas Mann reading from his own works in German
"It's an essay on the transience of things, and of the necessity to be grateful for endings in everything. I love this because I so identify with what Mann says. It allows me to greet every day anew, yet gives me the strength to deal with endings, like Yosef's death."
3. *The Goldberg Variations* — J.S. Bach played by Glenn Gould
4. *Winterreise* ("Winter Journey"), a Schubert song cycle sung by baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.
"Of course Fischer-Dieskau. I love winter. I love its crispness and its colors. For the past 10 years, I've spent part of it in the same room of the same hotel in the village of Sernsee [near Klosters]. I go for long walks in the mountains. I often take scripts with me, to learn my lines in that peace. I love the sorrows of winter too. I like to cry in the snow."
5. *The Christmas Oratorio* by J.S. Bach.
Orna Porat grew up in Cologne, and the oratorio "reminds me of my childhood even though it's beautiful in its own right. Whoever has heard it sung in the Cologne Cathedral knows how beautiful it can be. Christmas was something we could share with the Catholics, and so, although I was raised as a Protestant, we went to the cathedral for services."



Hot tip

By KAREN SULKOS

Tel Aviv Area

Be a chocoholic, or just look like one by heading over to the *Chocolate Festival* at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art today and tomorrow. Warning: Bring your own napkins. It's a jungle out there.

After you've pigged out, you can wipe off your face and go into the museum to enjoy contentmenteer Derek Lee Ragin and the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in musical selections by Shostakovich, Vivaldi, Pergolesi and Stravinsky. William Henry Curry conducts.

Tomorrow at 2 p.m., with a pre-concert lecture by Michael Melzer at 1 p.m. Program repeats Saturday night at 8:30, with lecture at 7:30. Call (03) 696-1267.

The "Unforgettable" music of Natalie and Nat King Cole highlights tonight's jazz program at the Zahala Apropos. Music starts at 10. I Avner Zahala. Call (03) 648-7098.

The BatSheva Dance Company premieres *Sabotage Baby*, choreographed by Ohad Naharin. Tonight at 8:30 in the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts.

Will the stars of the Israeli stage production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* rival Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton? You can see for yourself tonight at 8:30 at the ZOA House.

Shlomit Dvir and her guitar share some *Musical Stories* with young people aged 3-5. Today at 5 p.m. at Beit Anela, in the Tel Aviv Library.

Jerusalem

The Jerusalem branch of AACI follows the time-worn tradition of

holding its Thanksgiving dinner in the afternoon. Those with reservations can partake at 5 p.m. 6 Mane Street. Call (02) 561-9252.

Hadassah's Merkaz Hamagshimim is hosting a more laid-back, bargain-priced feast for folks between 19 and 35. It's filled with a Jewish Thanksgiving dinner. Tonight at 7 at 7a Dor V'Dorshav in the German Colony. Call (02) 561-9233.

Internationally acclaimed actor Klaus Maria Brandauer narrates Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw*, as Kurt Masur conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Soprano Kelley Nassief and the Slovak Philharmonic Choir join in. Tonight at 8:30 at Binaynei Ha'uma. Call (02) 624-0896.

The Lev Smadar theater presents a lazy Friday afternoon jazz concert, tomorrow from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Call (02) 561-8168.

Returned prodigal son Matti Caspi performs tonight at 10 at the Jerusalem Theater. 20 Marcus Street. Call (02) 561-7167.

Conductor Moshe Epstein leads the Rubin Academy Chamber

Orchestra in works by Vivaldi, Rossini and Britten. Tonight at 8:30 at the Wise Auditorium, Givat Ram Campus, Hebrew University. Call (02) 675-9911.

The relatives in the play *Friends* take an unusual tack in dealing with a son who's decided to strike out on his own. They move in with him. Curtain tonight at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio. 4 Yad Harutzim, in Talpott.

The Jerusalem Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is holding its annual general meeting tonight followed by an authentic Indian vegetarian buffet dinner. (The meal is NIS 50, a portion of which will be donated to the JSPCA.) Guest speaker, in Hebrew, is Kol Ha'ir's "zoo-watcher" Tomer Pratt. AGM at 6:30 p.m. The Seventh Place, Beit Agron, 37 Hillel Street. (02) 566-9232 or 052-592095.

Other Locales

The wise and wonderful Professor Alice Shalvi gives a timely lecture on "Women in

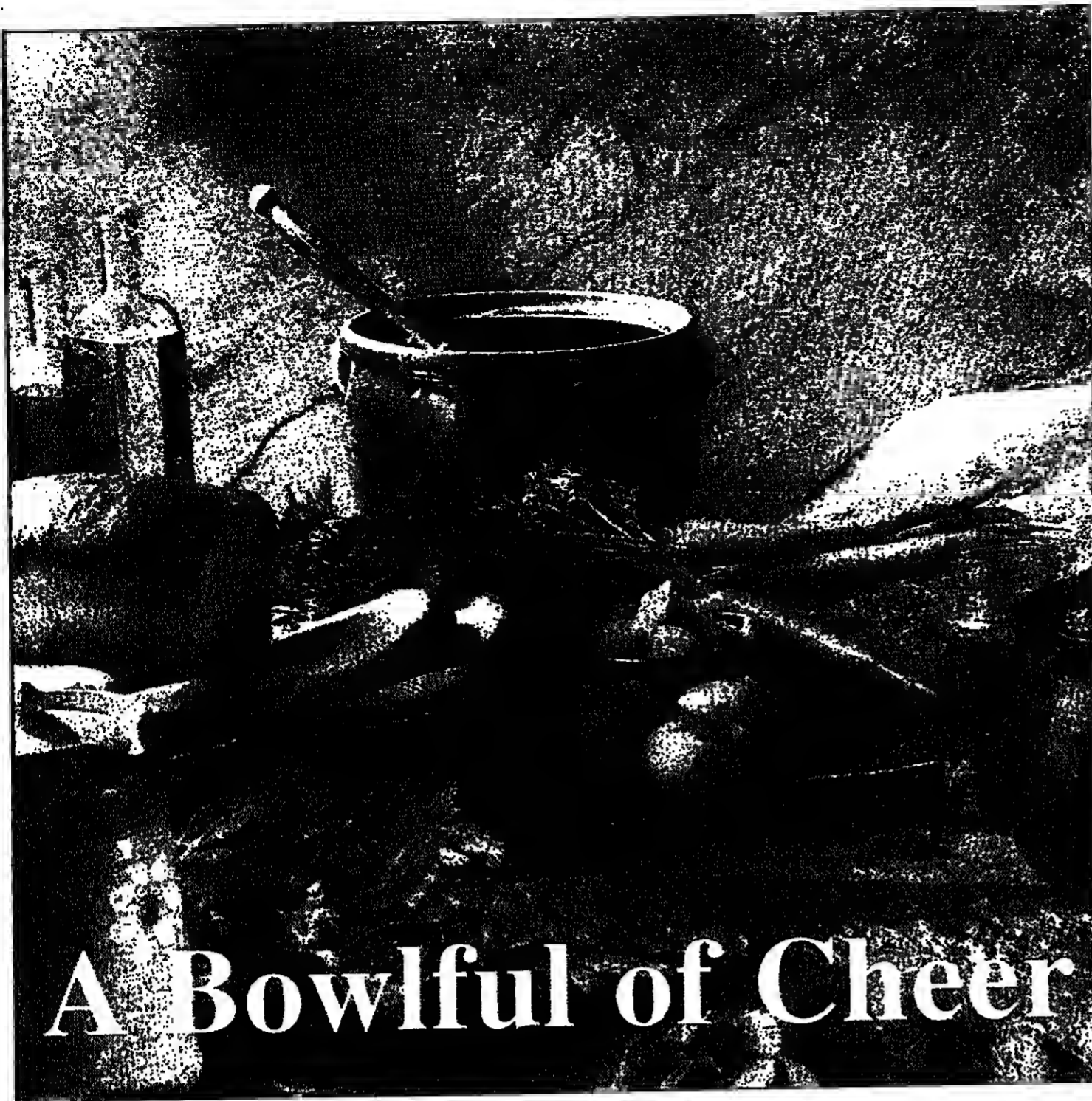
Israel." Hosted by AACI and the Israel Women's Network. Tonight at 8 at the AACI Netanya office on 28 Shmuel Hanatziv Street. Call (09) 833-0950.

Ruby Porat and Hanan Goldblat star in *Cash on Delivery*, a play about a man who's been unemployed for years but neglects to share this information with his wife. Tonight at 8:30 at the Haifa Theater. (04) 862-0670.

Italian conductor Antonelo Alamondi leads the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba in a program of Haydn, Rossini, Leef and Beethoven. Tonight at 8:30 at the Beersheba Conservatory.

Television:

The Movie Channel is running the oddly comic *The Madness of King George* on Saturday night at 9:30. In addition to wonderful performances by Helen Mirren and Nigel Hawthorne, famously vain hunk-of-the-moment (again!) Rupert Everett actually lets himself appear ugly and puffy in the film. Now *that's* acting!



A Bowlful of Cheer

I feel a sense of culinary *deja vu*. In the innocent days when I first started to cook, I would throw lots of ingredients into a big pot, add some garlic and whatever seasonal vegetables my mother grew, and cover the entire mishmash with water. Then I would lower the heat to a simmer and walk away, hoping for the best when I returned in an hour. Now, 25 years later, I'm doing it again - only this time I feel I'm doing it with finesse, knowledge, and a purpose.

After all, there are many reasons why peasant-style soups are becoming more popular. The marriage of fresh ingredients simmering with one another comforts taste buds and warms souls. None of the valuable vitamins and minerals are discarded. And there's the convenience: It's simple to throw ingredients into a pan to simmer almost unattended while you spend more time with your children, wrap presents, or sample a new Chardonnay. I get a sense of closeness to my family and friends when I place a big bowl of soup on my table. And it gets even better when I accompany it with a loaf of crusty bread and a giant salad. Here are two distinct soup styles - one that's thick and hearty, and another that's a broth full of vegetables.

TORTELLINI, WHITE BEAN, AND SPINACH SOUP

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups coarsely chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (450 gr.) can navy beans, drained
- 2 cups fresh vegetable broth, or 1 (400 gr.) can vegetable broth
- 1 (400 gr.) can no-salt-added whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 (400 gr.) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 (250 gr.) package uncooked fresh cheese tortellini

- 1/4 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chopped onion, bell pepper, seasoning, and garlic. Sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add spinach and next 5 ingredients (spinach through artichokes). Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 2 minutes. Add tortellini and cook until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with cheese.

Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 1 1/2 cups soup and 2 teaspoons cheese, 281 calories).

MEXICAN BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

Try serving this zesty soup with *quesadillas*.

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups cubed, peeled butternut squash
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup sliced, seeded, poblano chile or 1 (125 gr.) can chopped green chiles
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 4 cups fresh vegetable broth or water
- 1 (435 gr.) can white hominy or whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add squash and next 6 ingredients (squash through chili powder). Sauté 3 minutes. Add broth and hominy. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in lime juice and cilantro.

Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 3/4 cups, 161 calories).

CREAMY LIMA BEAN SOUP WITH PASTA

Any smaller-type pasta such as *ditalini* will work in this soup.

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot

- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups water
- 3 thyme sprigs
- 4 cups fresh vegetable broth, or 2 (400 gr.) cans vegetable broth
- 1 (450 gr.) package frozen baby lima beans
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1 cup uncooked orzo (*"little ears"* pasta)
- 1/2 cup chopped, bottled, roasted red bell peppers

Heat olive oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrot, and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Add water, thyme, broth, and lima beans; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 15 minutes. Stir in basil, lemon juice, and lemon pepper. Place 3 cups soup in a blender; process until smooth. Return pureed mixture to pan; bring to a boil. Add pasta; cook 15 minutes or until pasta is tender. Stir in bell peppers. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 2 cups, 316 calories).

LENTIL SOUP

- 7 1/2 cups fresh vegetable broth or water
- 1 1/2 cups dried lentils
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup chopped parsnip
- 2 Tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine broth and dried lentils in a large Dutch oven, and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Add chopped onion and next 6 ingredients (onion through salt); cover and simmer 15 minutes. Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 197 calories).

COUNTRY-FRENCH VEGETABLE SOUP

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped green cabbage
- 1 cup chopped onion

- 1 cup (1/2-inch-thick) sliced carrot
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup diced red potato
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 1 cup water
- 4 cups fresh vegetable broth or 2 (400 gr.) cans vegetable broth
- 1 cup drained canned chickpeas
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. chopped fresh or 1/2 teaspoon dried dill
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat until hot. Add cabbage and next 5 ingredients (cabbage through caraway seeds); sauté 2 minutes. Add water and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 30 minutes. Add chickpeas, parsley, dill, and pepper; cook until thoroughly heated. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 184 calories).

BASQUE RICE-AND-KALE CHOWDER

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1 Tbsp. Hungarian sweet paprika
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 (400 gr.) can stewed tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 2 cups fresh vegetable broth or 1 (400 gr.) can vegetable broth
- 2 cups cooked kale
- 1 cup cooked long-grain brown rice
- 1/2 cup drained canned chickpeas
- 1/2 cup raisins

1. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion and next 5 ingredients (onion through bay leaves); sauté 2 minutes. Add water, tomatoes, and broth; bring to a boil. Add kale, rice, chickpeas, and raisins; reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 311 calories).

(Creators Syndicate Inc.)

Weekly Food & Drink



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

stores, NIS 7 to NIS 9 in restaurants, 750-ml. bottles are NIS 6 in stores, NIS 16 to NIS 19 in restaurants.

No lox, no thanks (avoid)
For those who love smoked salmon, there's nothing like the real thing, served up on a good bagel and cream cheese. A real New York girl, I've never been particularly fond of salmon salads, especially not if they're made with faux salmon (the package calls it *macluzza*), mixed with pickles, two types of artificial food coloring, unknown emulsifiers, sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate. The little artificially colored pieces are such a bright shade of red you wonder if the person who invented it was color blind.

Hot cider (very good)
Years ago people used to laugh when I served my Israeli interpretation of hot cider, New England style. Now it seems the mainstream is adopting it. Restaurants and kiosk owners now can invest in Cider Hagali's new drink machine which dispenses 250-ml. and 330-ml. cups of hot cider for NIS 4 and NIS 6 a cup, depending on size.

Fancy water (excellent)
Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman drink it. Sally Fields and Demi Moore adore it. Even Bill Clinton drinks it. San Pellegrino is the mineral water of the world. Imported from Italy by Segal Wines, San Pellegrino waters are taken from a source in the Italian Alps in contact with volcanic rocks and dolomite cliffs. Operating since 1898, the Italian firm markets all around the world, but especially to New York and Hollywood, Germany, Switzerland and France. Less fizzy than Perrier, it really does taste good! 250-ml. bottles sell for NIS 3.50 in

stores, NIS 7 to NIS 9 in restaurants, 750-ml. bottles are NIS 6 in stores, NIS 16 to NIS 19 in restaurants.

delightful - just remember to remove the spices after about 30 minutes or the cider will become bitter.

Salsa (good)
Although Mexican food is not high on Israelis' popularity list, several domestic companies, like Beit Hashita and Osem, are producing a version of salsa - the Spanish word for sauce - the American term for many sauce-like condiments. It's difficult to know what kind of flavorings and vegetable stabilizers the Osem version (called *Amigos*) contains because, as usual, the company uses only the vaguest possible terms to describe them.

The Beit Hashita version contains nothing artificial, but its tastes are imbalanced. I vote for the President's Choice salsa, which costs NIS 7.95, since it not only tastes good, but also contains nothing artificial. And you don't need tortillas to enjoy salsa. You can use it to season soups, serve as a dip alongside of guacamole and corn chips, top a hamburger, serve with scrambled eggs or fill an omelette, among other things.

Italian spice (fair to good)
McCormick's new Italian Seasoning contains all the classic Italian spices - marjoram, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano and basil - mixed together. We tried it in a cream sauce on pasta and found the taste too dominating. It could be good sprinkled sparingly on pizza or in a tomato-based pasta sauce. I'm not crazy about marjoram which, along with thyme and rosemary, strongly flavors this mix. I prefer to mix my own combinations according to dish. The 21 gr. plastic bottle sells for NIS 12.95.

Where can I buy cans of condensed clear chicken soup to use in recipes? I only have been able to find the powdered soup mixes. Are there any cooking classes in Jerusalem?
- Mrs. F. Rosenthal, Jerusalem

Kiryat Motzkin
Shulamith Kretzman's telephone number is (04) 871-1942. Her E-mail address is rubynsue@netvision.net.il

I am writing to inform you about the (English-speaking) chapter of the International Jewish Vegetarian Society. It is located on 8 Balfour Street in Rehavia, Jerusalem. (Telephone and fax, (02) 561-1114; E-mail, ijvsjlem@netmedia.net.il) IJVS offers monthly programs on various aspects of vegetarianism and maintains a library which contains recipes and nutritional information. Anyone is welcome to make an appointment to check out the holdings of the library.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: Phyllisfood@jpost.co.il

Where can I get five-spice seasoning? Is there a kosher brand available?
- Helen Livnat, Herzliya

The Chinese mixture of spices called "five-spice seasoning" is generally available in spice stores and stores selling Far Eastern products. A widely distributed and kosher version is made by Spices by Elana and marketed by Segal Wines.

Could you pass on my name and number so readers can start an English-speaking group for sharing vegetarian recipes?
- Shulamith Kretzman,

FEEL

Is there any shamenet available that is less than 15% fat? Are there any hard cheeses available that are non-fat? We are interested in products that are kosher lehemadrin.
- Naomi Muller, Jerusalem

I don't know if you are referring to *shamenet metuka* (sweet cream) or *shamenet hamutza* (sour cream). In any case, when it comes to sour cream, if it had less fat it wouldn't be *shamenet*, it would be *eshel* or *leben* (or you could use yogurt). As to sweet cream, you can make your own "half and half" by adding milk to the cream.

I don't know of any non-fat hard yellow cheeses that are available here. The only hard cheeses that I know of that are not high in saturated fat are made of soy or rice milk and are sold in health-food stores by the slice.

Wine Cellar

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY



Argentina's young wineries target Israeli market

Argentina is to begin exporting its wines to Israel in the next few weeks. Argentina has a long tradition of wine making; it began a century ago with the arrival of French, Spanish and Italian immigrants who found perfect wine-growing conditions in the mountainous provinces of Salta and Mendoza.

And, perhaps due to the influence of these immigrants, Argentines developed a love for wine. Even today, the average Argentine household consumes approximately two bottles of wine per day. Buenos Aires's 13 million inhabitants alone provide a huge market for local wine producers.

Like in France, local wines are sold at what seems to be the average Israeli laughably low prices. An "expensive" decent varietal is sold in the capital's wine shops for \$10. An eminently drinkable table wine of a lesser category will go for \$3.

Argentine wine makers have an unfortunate reputation for producing heavy, sluggish wines that are not of much use or pleasure and do not satisfy European or American tastes. Traditional Argentine wines, often made in

relatively unhygienic conditions in massive, hundred-year-old barrels, are basically what the French region of Burgundy was producing some 200 years ago. However, the recent importation of foreign - mostly European - wines and a new influx of cosmopolitan immigrants is changing the *gancho* palate in favor of lighter, fruitier and more complex wines.

Some of the young wineries producing top-of-the-line wines today are owned and run by a new generation of French immigrants who are highly attuned to international tastes. Over the past six years, they have been using the latest techniques and equipment to produce appealing wines.

In addition, competition is forcing the Argentine economy, which until a decade ago was almost hermetically sealed, to open up to the world market, and Israel is one of its tar-

gets. A number of Argentine cabernets will be arriving here soon, along with various syrahs, malbecs and non-varietal reds.

The malbecs are the most interesting of the bunch. Malbec suffers from one of the worst reputations a grape could possibly have, that of being both heavy and lacking in flavor. In Bordeaux, it is used almost exclusively for mixing. Argentine wine makers claim Mendoza has the perfect climatic conditions for elevating malbec to a truly fine wine. My recent tour of a number of wineries confirms that. Like Australian syrah, it is not a wine to be dismissed.

I especially recommend trying the wines of Norton, Fabre & Montmayou, Nieto & Senetiner, Chandon (the Latin American branch) and Luigi Bosca wineries, all of which will be available here shortly.

rink



's Tips



Primordial shadows in the caves of Carmel

Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

I visited the Nahal Me'arot Reserve, the prehistoric site south of Haifa, with a group of tour guides. Three of the caves (also known as The Carmel Caves) that pockmark the cliffs are accessible to the public. In the longest cave, penetrating 70 meters into the cliffside, we watched a film depicting the life of the early humans who lived

here. The actors chipped tools, cleaned skins, hunted deer, fanned a precious flame, and died, leaving a vivid impression of the thousands of generations who lived short, stark lives here. But when it ended, and the jabbering guides left, I remained behind and sat against the cave wall in the darkness. Light filtered weakly from the cave entrance. In

darkness and silence I could more acutely feel the presence of these cave dwellers. My mind held only questions and wonderings. On this cave floor, creatures dating back to the time of the first migrations from Africa huddled for shelter. Their descendants uttered guttural sounds. Other descendants gazed with restless eyes and minds into

nocturnal fires. Others smashed animal bones with stone tools, while still others skinned antelope hides with even sharper implements, shaped by other tools. But when, during endless millennia dedicated to the acquisition of food and warmth, did these proto-humans begin to wonder about who they were? When did they begin to ponder the powers of

the darkness outside the cave mouth? When did the human being become, as the anthropologist/poet Loren Eiseley put it, "a dream animal - living at least partially within a secret universe of his own creation and sharing that secret universe in his head with other, similar heads...?" Whenever those changes did come, and whatever they entailed within the explosive growth of the oxygen-guzzling human brain, they developed in microcosm in these caves. In fact, the entire evolution of man is, in a sense, contained within these caves. For, amazingly, the Carmel Caves cover the longest stretch of paleontological and archaeological finds ever discovered in one spot, dating from over 200,000 years ago to 12,000 years ago.

Paleontological sites around the world reveal various stages and branches in the development of the bipeds who became humans. But in these caves, they are all piled on top of each other. A clearly marked route, punctuated by explanatory signs and diagrams, brings the visitor to the three caves accessible in the reserve (Hebrew- and English-speaking reserve guides are also available for groups and individuals). In the first, the Tamar cave, the strata bear witness to 150,000 years in the life of early humanity, divided into three successive, distinct cultures, which are defined largely by the development of tools. All the efforts at survival - the pushing of the restless, developing brain, the inventions and innovations that crept and occasionally leaped forward - are compacted within these layers of crude and finely honed tools. But the human drama of prehistory did not unfold in neat little categories of time, culture or biology. Witness another unusual feature of this reserve: These caves

seem to be the only spot of habitation where both the Neanderthal branch of hominids and the Cro-Magnon branch, from which we descend, lived in contemporary periods. Evidence of the dense-boned, heavy-browed Neanderthals includes not only tools but bones, and one full female skeleton. Based on the structure of that skull, in fact, some scholars hypothesize that the Neanderthals were capable of some speech. Here they wandered for some 60,000 years, living in groups of 25-50 people, cooperatively hunting and entrapping animals.

The Carmel Caves cover the longest stretch of paleontological and archaeological finds ever discovered in one spot, dating from over 200,000 years ago to 12,000 years ago

methodically inventing and shaping tools. Here, perhaps, they gazed at the Cro-Magnons, across a gap of physicality, consciousness, technological progress and depth of mind which could not be spanned. One moved on to begin civilization, art, science, to penetrate as deeply as human thought can, while the other disappeared. The Homo sapiens, meanwhile, emerged as the modern human and lived here as hunter-gatherers, until about 20,000 years ago. Then there is a gap of 8,000 years. During the next period of habitation, the Natufian period, which began about 12,000 years ago and lasted 2,000 years, inhabitants created larger, permanent settlements, built terraces, began the domestication of animals.

The brains that carved human heads in stone and deer heads in bone (the oldest art objects found in Israel), which organized the first cemeteries and ritual burials in Israel, were identical to those brains now cruising cyberspace. They pondered the mystery of their existence and selves. "Man had escaped out of the eternal present of the animal world," as Eiseley put it, "into a knowledge of past and future. The unseen gods, the powers behind the world of phenomenal appearance, began to stalk through his dreams."

What really lives in these caves, between the shards, terraces and bone fragments? The questions concerning meaning for endless generations - each like a single drop of water - which have carved and contained within them a history of struggle, dreaming, hoping, conquest; of hutchery, family loss, starvation; of innovation and invention; of wonder and fear; experiment and failure; childhood death and pain-laced age; of superstition and greed; communication and poetry; love, lust and the ever-looming presence of death. Thus the very location, here in Israel, of this microcosm of the totality of human prehistory adds to its uniqueness. For in this splinter of the world, the human mind and soul reached beyond themselves for a sense of meaning and unity in creation. Here, law tried to infuse a sense of morality and divinity, and eloquent psalmists compared human life to transient grass. Yes, these caves embrace the journey of humanity. But my puny human mind, sitting in that dark cave, cannot absorb it all. It throbs and goes blank. Nevertheless, wonder and questions permeate every centimeter of these caves, like dormant desert seeds. With my next visit, perhaps, more of them will spring to life.

Zichron Ya'acov: Take a walk on the Wine Route

Day Tripper By Ham Shapiro

Zichron Ya'acov used to be the kind of place where teachers took school groups; now quaint shops and a moderate but charming nightlife are attracting visitors to this sleepy town. Founded in 1882 by settlers from Romania, Zichron has plenty of historical landmarks, especially from the period when Baron Edmund de Rothschild took it under his wing and began pouring money into it. There are a number of wine cellars in the town and the surrounding area, and they, too, deserve a visit. But let's face it. It is a lot more pleasant to go somewhere

because it has interesting shops, pleasant cafes and good restaurants. All that has come to the town in the last few years. On Thursday nights young people pour into the downtown area, to the pubs and wine bars. The historic sites are still a draw. Most of them are along the town's main street, Rehov Hameyasdim ("Founders' Street"), which has been redubbed Derech Hayayin, "the Wine Route." It is not much of a wine route compared to those in France and Germany, or even California and South Africa, but at least the wine is much better

than it used to be. The street itself has been repaved with stones, and traffic has been restricted, making it far more pleasant for pedestrians. Many of the old homes have been restored and even those that remain dilapidated seem to have become more interesting-looking as a result of the urban renewal. For the history buffs, there is of course Beit Abaronson, the home of Aaron Abaronson, founder of the Nili spy group which operated against the Turks during World War I. There are documents relating to Abaronson, and his sister, Sara, who shot herself

after having been arrested and tortured by the Turkish forces. My own favorite structure on the street is Breichat Binyamin, the old water tower with a neo-gothic facade that makes it appear to be an ancient synagogue. If you look closely, you can just make out the water spout, where a fountain once gushed forth from the central arch, providing a constant supply of water to the residents of the area. On the side is a stairway that you can climb to get a panoramic view of the area. In comparison with the water tower, which looks like a syna-

gogue, the actual old synagogue of the town, Ohel Ya'acov, which is just down the street and around the corner, seems rather modest. Built in the style of the German Templars - Protestant settlers who also came to the Holy Land - it is

said to be the finest of the synagogues in any of Baron de Rothschild's settlements, but today it just seems to be old-fashioned. A casual tour of the historic sites of Zichron might take a half hour, an hour if you are really

interested, but you could spend an entire afternoon whiling away your time, investigating the artistry in the shops and gossiping over a cup of coffee along what has become one of the country's most attractive main streets.



Built in the style of the German Templars, Ohel Ya'acov was said to be the finest synagogue in any of de Baron Rothschild's settlements. Today it just seems old-fashioned. (Israel Talby)

book department

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Weekender Leisure



The real world

Models of all shapes, sizes and ages prance the catwalk for a fashion show benefitting female victims of abuse

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When creating for a mass market or even for a boutique market, designers are working in a vacuum. They may have definite ideas about silhouettes, fabrics, textures and colors, but they don't know who's going to buy them and wear them. What they do know — at least in an abstract sense — is that most of the women sporting their label won't bear the slightest resemblance to the models in their catalog.

When Hagar Allembeck, the name behind the Hagara label, put together her current fall/winter collection, she had a completely different experience. For the showing, on behalf of the Center to Aid Female Victims of Sexual Abuse, Allembeck eschewed professional models and instead selected some 80 well-known women of varying ages, shapes and sizes to parade her clothes. Several of the women on the runway were in their 40s and 50s, and some were in their 70s.

So the first message broadcast by Hagara was that contrary to what we have been taught, the world does not necessarily belong to the young, the thin and the beautiful. The second message was even more telling, given the beneficiary of the event. Provocative apparel, though it may get the juices going, is not an invitation to rape or even flirt. What the lady wears is immaterial so long as she herself makes it clear that she's not interested in any sexual liaison.

Though most of the loose, layered, draped and cowl-neck garments, accented mainly in velvets, tended to resemble theatrical period costumes, there were a few low-cut and super-sheer items. The mood, however, was clearly look, but don't touch.

AS UNUSUAL as it was for Hagara to unveil her collection with models who could be anyone's next-door neighbor, it was even more unusual for her to be showing at all. Many of her competitors, defeated by both the weather and the slump in the market, have begun their winter sales more than a month ahead of time.

Let's not kid ourselves: Business in the rag trade is not just bad, but disastrous. People who lost a bundle in the volatile stock market may feel inclined to comfort themselves with a new outfit, but in many cases, thought is not leading to action. Money is tighter and people aren't spending.

All those delicious pastel angoras and the gorgeous silky and velvety jewel-colored poodle, popcorn, cable and ribbed knits in the up-market price range will become considerably more affordable over the next few weeks, as will the crushed and embossed velvet separates which have been given so much prominence in fashion publications and window displays.

And those labels in the medium to lower price range, such as Rosh Indiani, Niba, Just Looking, Honigman, Topper and Cafe, will become even more affordable.

Local designers and manufacturers are not the only ones whose prices are plummeting. Even international giants like Yves Saint-Laurent have to give in to the vagaries of public spending, though it's doubtful that he'll make much of a concession on his full-length fur coats with their magnificent shawl collars.

Whether you're buying upmarket or middle-bracket clothing, hold off for a while. Prices will drop further in December and yet again in January. With all the crazy changes in the weather, you might just be lucky and find it cold enough in February to wear your new acquisitions.

Clockwise from top left: HAGARA; YVES SAINT-LAURENT; JUST LOOKING; CAFE; YVES SAINT-LAURENT



Bridg The Israeli Simultaneous

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ QJ109642
♥ 94
♦ Q
♣ Q32

West East
♠ 3 ♠ K5
♥ 2 ♥ J1087653
♦ 87654 ♦ K93
♣ KJ10874 ♣ 5

South (Wertheimer)
♠ A87
♥ AKQ
♦ AJ102
♣ A96

South West North East
2 NT pass 3♥ pass
4♣ pass 4NT pass
5♦ pass 6♠ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♥2

One of my jobs is to write the analysis of a special duplicate game called the Israeli Simultaneous. This event is played around the country on the same night, with the same deals. At the conclusion, the players receive a booklet (in Hebrew) with the deals and suggested bidding and play.

How is this possible, especially considering my terrible Hebrew? Well, it begins in the offices of the Israel Bridge Federation in Haifa. There, the manager of the Israeli Bridge League, Zvi Ben-Tovim, instructs his computer to print out three sets of hand-records (each with 40 deals, randomly dealt). He then mails me the sets and I pick out the most interesting 40 deals from the 120. In the last Simultaneous, on November 15, I decided to choose all 40 deals from a single set because of an interesting complaint that was registered by one of the players. If I selected only interesting deals, the players would have to be on the lookout for an interesting play on every deal. This eliminates to some degree the random element of where the cards lie. So at his suggestion, I used only one set of 40 deals, and no selection was made.

However, it is still a long and tedious process to analyze 40 deals, propose an auction, and then discuss the ramifications and nuances in two short paragraphs for each deal. Finally, after I've

written the booklet in English, I mail my work to Ben-Tovim, who translates it into Hebrew.

After every Simultaneous, I receive phone calls from a few of the participants, either complaining that the deals were too wild ("Blame it on the computer," I answer) or that the bidding was too esoteric ("Blame it on my bridge upbringing") or that a better line of play was found than the one mentioned in the booklet ("Blame it on my faulty analysis").

On today's deal, from the November Simultaneous, the suggested final contract was six spades. In many cases, North was declarer but in the case of Sarah Wertheimer, who played the tournament at the Netanya Bridge Club, South was declarer after North had made a transfer bid to spades. Transfers are common after notrump openings and give declarer a tremendous edge by having the opening lead come up to the strong hand. In the auction shown, South accepted game and North bid Blackwood to check for aces (five diamonds showed 1 or 4). West led the deuce of hearts.

Wertheimer won in hand and led the ace of diamonds and deuce of diamonds to ruff in dummy, noting the fall of the 9 from East. She then took a successful finesse in trumps by leading the queen and letting it ride when East played the 5. A second spade play drew the king. So far, declarer had taken the line-of-play proposed in the booklet. But at this point, I suggested that South lead the jack of diamonds and, when West plays low, discard a club from dummy, hoping that the king is with West.

This is called a "ruffing finesse," which has in theory a 50 percent chance of success. On this deal, East would win the king and declarer takes only 12 tricks, for the contract. But if West held the king of diamonds, this ruffing finesse would produce an over-trick.

Wertheimer found a more interesting (and successful) play. She led the jack of diamonds and ruffed it in dummy, the king falling. Now she had 13 tricks. There were two clues to her play. First, the 9 of diamonds was a suspicious card and, if honest, was likely to be followed by the king. Second, if the king didn't fall, she could cash her hearts and spades and make 13 tricks by squeezing East, if that player held both minor-suit kings.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@netvision.net.il

Chess When machine beat man

By NIGEL SHORT

One wonders how the experience of losing to Deeper Blue might have affected Garry Kasparov. The World Champion is an extremely tough competitor and doubtless will be determined to assert his authority over his feeble human opponents. Yet one cannot help feeling that his humiliating defeat in the full glare of the world's media is bound, in some way, to have damaged him psychologically.

Some entertaining Kasparov quotes are contained within grandmaster Daniel King's lucidly written account of the match (Kasparov v Deeper Blue, Batsford), for example:

"If a computer can beat the World Champion, a computer can read the best books in the world, can write the best plays and can know everything about history and literature and people."

If Garry actually believed such rubbish, it is no wonder he had difficulty facing the silicon monster. Playing a decent game of chess is nowhere near as important a human accomplishment as my esteemed colleague claims. In fact, since Kasparov is an intelligent sort of chap, I suspect he knows this, but may just have forgotten it in his eagerness to hype the clash.

It has been widely reported that Garry is prepared to stake his title in a rematch. As the philosophy lecturer and former British Champion, George Botterill, succinctly expressed it many years ago, this makes about as much sense as a weightlifter offering his title to a fork-lift truck — a point to be borne in mind by those who consider chess to have been in some way demeaned by Deeper Blue's victory.

Yes, there are those who consider this match to be the death of chess. I suspect it is only the beginning of the end of the battle 'man versus machine'. At this moment I believe there are still a handful of guys capable of winning such a contest. But whether I am right or wrong

in my assumption is hardly relevant; sooner or later a computer will be able to beat anyone. Then these matches will cease to have interest and people will return, as they have for the last 1,500 years to playing chess against one another.

An important moment in Garry's demise was when he resigned the second game in the following position:

White: Deeper Blue
Black: Kasparov
New York, 1997



White: (Deeper Blue)

Instead he should have continued with 45... Qe3. Then after the obvious 46... Qxd6 black should respond with 46... Re8! This move is not too hard to see and would be found by any strong player who had not mentally (or actually) resigned. Kasparov would certainly have discovered it when facing an animate opponent. The point is that white's king is too exposed. Black threatens to capture the bishop on e4 after which he can secure a draw. There are a number of winning tries but they all founder on the poor king position. The simplest variation is as follows, 47. Bf3 Qc1+ 48. Kf2 Qd2+ 49. Be2 Qf4+ 50. Kg1 Qe3+ 51. Kh1 Qc1+ 52. Kh2 Qf4+ with a perpetual check.

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مكتبة القدس

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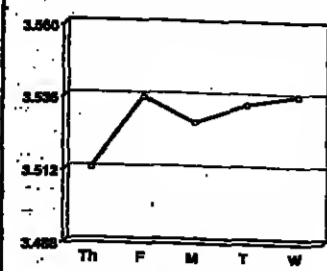
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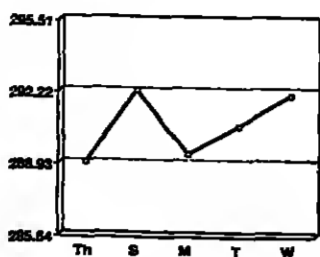
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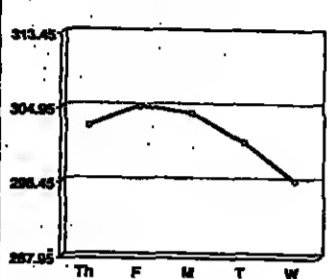
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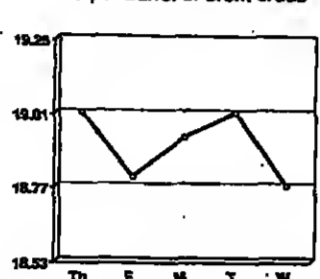
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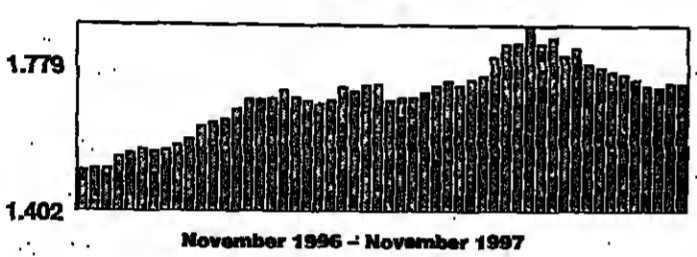
GOLD



OIL



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



LANNET separates from Madge

Madge Networks N.V. announced yesterday that its Ethernet products division, the Tel Aviv-based LANNET, has been relaunching as an autonomous subsidiary. The new company will be known as LANNET, the name used by the Ethernet division before its acquisition by Madge Networks in November 1995.

LANNET will be organized as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Madge Networks N.V., the parent company that also owns Madge Networks. *David Harris*

ICI to increase investments in Israel

British chemicals company ICI has decided to increase its investments in Israel by tens of millions of dollars, according to company chiefs who met Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday.

Sharansky said the company wants to invest in chemicals, pharmaceuticals and medicine, as well as to cooperate with small companies as well as with large ones such as Teva. *Globes*

Israel, EU hope to reach trade compromise

The trade battle between the European Union and Israel that began four years ago with a dispute concerning orange juice could be resolved today, according to Israeli government sources.

Talks began yesterday in Brussels, with the Israeli delegation led by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Customs and VAT Director Motti Ayalon. The EU is objecting retroactively to alleged Israeli diluting of domestic orange juice with Brazilian oranges before exporting the produce to Europe and thus breaching the trade agreement between the two parties. Israeli producers strongly deny the claim and have received widespread backing from civil servants and politicians. *David Harris*

Central bank Oct. integrated index falls 0.1%

The Bank of Israel index of integrated economic indicators fell 0.1 percent in October after a 0.2% rise the previous month, according to a statement from the central bank. The major contributors to the October index were: a 2.4% rise in the industrial production index, after a 1.5% decline in September; chain store sales fell some 2% after an 8.4% increase in September; and the imports index dropped 10.5% after a September rise of 8%. *David Harris*

Fiftieth anniversary telecards designed

Designs for five Bezeq telecards have been chosen to mark Israel's 50th anniversary. The five, each dedicated to a single decade, were designed by David Tarkower. The first shows the first premier, David Ben-Gurion at the declaration of statehood; the second Levi Eshkol and the capture of the Western Wall; the third Golda Meir and the Yom Kippur War; the fourth Menachem Begin and the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt; and the fifth Yitzhak Rabin and the peace accord with Jordan. In the background of the cards are illustrations of developments in communications technology for each decade. The designs will be displayed for the first time at the end of December, at a Telecard collectors' convention to be held in Tel Aviv. *Judy Siegel*

Zim receives last of its new ships

Zim Israel Navigation will today receive the last of the eight ships it recently ordered to operate on the company's tricontinent line. Zim China has a capacity of 3,400 containers. Delivery of the new ship is the final stage in the company's strategic investment and logistics process. *David Harris*

Koor reports 22% net increase

IEC 3rd quarter net doubles

The Israel Electric Corp. reported yesterday that third-quarter net profit doubled to NIS 366 million from NIS 179m. in the same period a year ago. In the first nine months of the year, net profit plunged to NIS 250m. from NIS 497m. a year earlier.

In a statement, the power monopoly said that the fall in profits was a result of a second-quarter loss caused by a real term decrease in electricity prices and the sharp rise of the dollar. The company said that this led to higher financing expenses.

The improvement in the third quarter is explained by changes in foreign exchange rates, and a result of cutting costs and lower inflation-adjusted wages.

The company reported a moderate rise in total income from the sale of electricity, which amounted to NIS 2.17 billion against NIS 2.14b. a year ago. In the first nine months, income rose slightly to NIS 5.9b. from NIS 5.7b. for the equivalent period in 1996.

Koor Industries, Israel's largest concern, reported yesterday that third-quarter net income rose 22.1% to \$38.3m. from \$31.3m. last year.

The company said that gains primarily came from increased revenues at its Makteshim-Agan agrochemical subsidiary and the Tadiran telecommunications and electronics unit.

Net income for the three quar-

ters fell to \$130.4m. from \$154m. in the same period of 1996.

For the third quarter sales increased 2.7% to \$868m. compared with \$844.9m. for the same period of 1996. Koor revenues in the first nine months of 1997 were \$2.74b., a 3.1% increase from \$2.65b. last year.

Operating income in the third quarter was \$66.4m. against \$54.9m. last year.

In a statement, Koor's president and chief executive officer Benjamin Gaon said that Koor's total export revenues increased by more than 26% during the last quarter.

"We have increased our concentration on our technology and export-oriented strategy. This approach enables Koor to focus with greater intensity on our globalization efforts," Gaon said.

Meanwhile, Koor also announced yesterday that its board of directors approved an agreement to acquire Claridge Israel Group's stake in ECI Telecom for \$275m. Claridge will receive 12.9% of Koor's shares, which will enable it to raise its stake in the conglomerate to 35.4%.

Migdal Insurance Group, the country's largest insurance company, reported yesterday that third-quarter net profit decreased to NIS 24.4m. from NIS 28.2m. in the

same period last year as a result of a decline in earnings from general insurance.

During the first nine months of the year net profit climbed 34% to NIS 133m. from NIS 88m. a year ago.

In a statement, Migdal's CEO Uzi Levi said that in the third

quarter the company's earnings from the sale of life insurance continued to grow while sales of general insurance suffered from a sharp decrease in prices and an increase in damages from car theft and burglary.

The Migdal Insurance Group consists of five insurance companies: Migdal, Hamagen, Shimshon, Maoz and Sela. It also owns insurance agencies and financial companies.

Leumi Insurance Holdings, Migdal's parent company, reported that third-quarter net profit rose to NIS 23.6m. from NIS 19.8m. In the first nine months of 1997 net profit surged to NIS 132.7m. from NIS 60.5m. in the corresponding period last year. The company attributed the rise to the positive results of the Migdal Group and to the fact that it increased its holding in the company to 100% from 60% a year ago as part of its sale in March to Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer.

The bank said that earnings from financing operations, before provision for doubtful debts, remained almost unchanged at NIS 259.2m. compared with NIS 258.8m. during the same period last year.

Samsung plans major cutbacks

By JUDY LEE

SEOUL (Bloomberg) - South Koreans yesterday began to see what their president's request to "share the pain" really means as companies announced staff cuts and massive restructuring in the face of the slowest economic growth in nearly two decades.

Samsung - the second largest conglomerate in the world's 11th biggest economy - said it will shift about 30 percent of its 260,000 employees into new jobs, cut management salaries by 10% and slash 27% off 1998 investment. Halla Heavy Industries Co., the country's third-largest shipbuilder, said it will halve its work force to 3,000.

The moves came as research companies owned by some of South Korea's largest companies, including Samsung, predict unemployment could rise as high as 5% next year from 2.2% in 1997. The last time unemployment hit 5% was in 1986. That's particularly worrying in a country where a job for life was seen as the norm and unlimited growth for the giant company groups known as "chaebol" was taken for granted.

That growth, though, was funded with huge loans from Korean banks and by mid-1997 - as countries across Asia were rolled by economic turmoil - it became apparent many of the chaebol were overextended. Indeed, seven of the nation's 40 biggest companies are bankrupt or have admitted they cannot pay their bills.

"Even large chaebol have no choice now but to step back from their never-ending expansion drive because the source of their easy loans are crumbling," said Lee Doo Won, an economics professor at Yonsei University. "There will be a lot of chaos at the beginning of the painful restructuring."

And Korea's government did not escape, either. After weeks of denying the extent of the country's troubles, the government announced Saturday it had approached the IMF for \$20 billion in aid. Many, including the rating agency Standard and Poor's Corp., think that won't be enough to help Korea through the restructuring that's coming. Standard and Poor's cut Korea's long-term credit rating two notches yesterday and warned further downgrades may be in order.

The average Korean company has four times more debt than equity, a dangerous mix when credit becomes as tight as it is now. Korean interest rates hit a six-year high yesterday. A study by the country's central bank found 21 of the 39 top chaebol are focusing investment on their core business, and 23 are cutting operating expenses.

The country's second-biggest union said Monday it is considering a "massive" strike in January to oppose conditions of the IMF bailout.

Bill seeks to increase NII income

By Globes news service

The income tax and VAT authorities will be required to transfer to the National Insurance Institute all their data on taxpayers' income, to increase National Insurance and health tax payments, according to new plans from the Treasury.

In addition, all profits accruing to members of advanced study (Hishalmut) funds will be liable for health and national insurance taxes.

These proposals are part of a new bill to be submitted soon to the Knesset. This week, the bill was sent for scrutiny to a number of leading figures, including the president of the Supreme Court, the attorney-general and the governor of the Bank of Israel.

In recent years, there has been a shortfall of NIS 2 billion annually in the collection of health and national insurance taxes.

In addition, as of next year, new Finance Ministry regulations will allow depositors in provident funds to withdraw their money only upon retirement.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is expected to approve the new regulations next month. Implementation is contingent on approval by the Knesset Finance Committee.



Courtroom buss for busted tycoon

Disgraced German property tycoon Juergen Schneider kisses his wife Claudia in a Frankfurt courtroom yesterday. Schneider is on trial for falsifying rental contracts to get loans from banks for his group, which failed under billions of marks of debt. *(Reuters)*

VisionTech claims affordable digital video compression chip

By JUDY SIEGEL

Herzliya-based VisionTech has announced the development of the first chip of its kind for compression of digital video. The chip makes it possible to put a full-length video film on a single computer disk or digital video disk. It is cheap enough to allow widespread home and commercial uses, the company said.

VisionTech said the chip will

make it possible to watch high-quality video films on a personal computer; it can also be included in still cameras or in video cameras to take high-quality films and store them.

"This is a real revolution, because technologies up to now have been several times as expensive - which allowed video compression only for professionals using studio equipment," the company spokesman said.

The chip was developed in the

Herzliya labs with cooperation from the DML and CSK consortia in Japan. According to VisionTech, several major computer and camera manufacturers in the US and Japan are very interested in buying it.

VisionTech, which will market the product in Europe, the US and Israel, has set up commercial representation in Palm Beach, Florida. CSK and DML will sell it in Japan and the Far East.

US opposes Patents Law amendment

By DAVID HARRIS

The US is still firmly opposed to the planned reform of the Israeli Patents Law, according to a statement issued by the American Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The statement followed reports in the media suggesting the US has no objections to the proposed amendment, under discussion in the Knesset.

The existing law prevents domestic companies from conducting research on drugs whose patents have not yet expired, giving US and European companies, which are not subject to such a law, a head start in developing generic drugs.

Teva, Israel's largest drug maker and a worldwide leader in the generic drug market, has been trying to change the patent law since it was passed in 1994. The company previ-

ously said it is considering moving part of its research and development operations overseas in order to bypass the law.

Teva has the support of Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Chief Scientist Orna Berry.

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Mekorot Water Co. Ltd. invites companies with appropriate facilities and experience to participate in a tender for the supply of 13 sets of diesel generators for continuous output from 500 kW to 1520 kW.

The tender documents and specifications can be purchased at a cost of NIS 1,000 (including VAT), which is non-refundable, from the Supply Department, Mekorot Head Office, 9 Lincoln Street, Tel Aviv (2nd floor, room 214). The tender documents may be perused before purchase.

Bids in which the summary data in the specifications are not filled out properly will not be considered.

A bond in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee from a major Israeli bank, for 5% of the total value of the bid, valid for 90 days, must be submitted with all bids.

Bids should be placed in the tender box at the Supply Department by 12 noon on January 6, 1998. Bids may not be sent by mail.

For more information, contact Eil Melamed, Tel. 03-623-0576.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

Mekorot reserves the right to negotiate with parties whose bids are considered appropriate.

Meir Kazam
Chairman, Tenders Committee

FINANCIAL MARKETS

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RETFER CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES LAST CHANGE

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION CASE ISSUES LAST CHANGE

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AMEX

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NASDAQ

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LONDON COMMODITIES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data services of Comstock Trading Ltd.

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Stock trading, Equity & bond research, Money management, Corporate finance.

Gold slumps to lowest since '85

Precious metals

Gold slumped to its lowest price since March 1985 amid growing expectations of further gold sales by European central banks.

Oil

January Brent crude oil prices fell, undermined by perceptions the US doesn't need much crude at present after an industry report showed an unexpected rise in crude oil supplies there.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Copper, etc.

Others

Copper rose. A strike halted production at Europe's largest copper mine, offsetting expecta-

tion of weakening demand for the metal in Asia. Prices in New York fell to almost a four-year low Tuesday as the economic slowdown in Japan, South Korea and southeast Asia led analysts and traders to reduce projections for global copper demand.

peaks. Lead demand typically increases ahead of the northern hemisphere winter when battery manufacturers increase the production of replacement batteries which can fail in extreme temperatures.

TASE gains boosted by earnings reports

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks rose yesterday, boosted by better-than-expected quarterly corporate earnings reports and following rises on Wall Street on Tuesday and in Asia and Europe yesterday.

Europe

UK stocks rose following a rebound in Asian markets, quelling some of the concern that has swept markets worldwide in recent weeks.

STOCKS

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Includes TASE, Nikkei, etc.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose as investors sought refuge from the nation's financial system troubles in top exporters such as Toyota Motor Corp. Fueling the market's rise was news that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will call for use of money from the government's general account to guarantee bank loans through the Deposit Insurance Corp.

Wall Street

Blue-chip issues struggled, but stocks were mostly higher yesterday in quiet pre-holiday trading, bolstered by some encouraging economic news and a calm day on Asian markets.

Mark declines to four-week low

US Bonds

The dollar rose to a four-week high against the mark as economic reports showed the US economy is healthy footing, and on expectations that Germany won't soon raise interest rates; keeping the mark's allure muted.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Currency, Rate, Change. Includes Dollar, Yen, etc.

BONDS

Table with columns: Bond, Yield, Change. Includes US 30-year T-bill, etc.

BONDS

The overnight trade was well advertised as being [the] selling out of Southeastern Asia," said John Spinello, head government bond trader at Merrill Lynch Government Securities Inc.

BONDS

plan to bail out Japan's ailing banks. "It's inevitable that Japan will come up with something in the next couple of weeks," said Chris Iggo, senior economist at BZW Securities, Inc.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Currency, 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes Patah, Pound, etc.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.11.97)

Table with columns: Currency, Buy, Sell, Bank of Israel. Includes US dollar, German mark, etc.

LEVINE

They are either pushing for stronger action against Hizbullah and Amal fighters to wipe out the guerrillas once and for all, or to withdraw unilaterally.

EITAN

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who openly declared his rebellion against Netanyahu, is getting ready to launch his new centrist party.

WHERE TO GO

- EMERGENCY PHARMACIES, DUTY HOSPITALS, POLICE, FIRE, FIRST AID, Magen David Adom.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- 6310, 08-855-0508, Rape Crisis Center, Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.05 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.95 per line, including VAT, per month.

Exhausted Iran pray for historic win... MELBOURNE (Reuters) Iran yesterday... The Jerusalem Post

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Markus Stockhausen is the soloist in the concert series of the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba...

The Chamber Orchestra of the Jerusalem Robin Music Academy opens its season with a program of works by Vivaldi, Rossini and Britten...

The winter concert season at the majestic church in serene Abu Ghosh opens Saturday (noon) with Sharon Rostorf as soloist...

The Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra opens its season, under music director Aviv Ron, playing the Israeli premiere of Gil Shohat's 'The Water Surface'...



Gil Shohat's 'The Water Surface' premieres with the Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra on Saturday.

song settings by Brahms and Beethoven, as well as Ladino songs by Eyal Bat.

BLUES

Harmonica virtuoso and singer Billy Branch sings and plays the Chicago blues together with an Israeli quartet...

TV

CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:45 Good Morning Israel...

CHANNEL 2: 6:15 Today's programs, 6:30 Rainbow Children, 7:00 This Morning...

CHANNEL 3: 18:00 News, 18:30 Meeting Point, 19:00 News...

CHANNEL 4: 14:10 New Kids on the Block, 14:30 My Little Fairy Tale, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 5: 8:00 Open University, 8:00 Seekers of the Nile, 8:00 Nine to Five...

CHANNEL 6: 8:00 Open University, 8:00 Seekers of the Nile, 8:00 Nine to Five...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for News, Beverly Hills 90210, Beverly Hills 90210 (2 episodes), Human Nature, etc.

homebound with the bombing assistance of two missiles. Directed by Akira Kurosawa...

6:30 Hindi programs, 6:30 Hindi programs, 6:30 Hindi programs...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte, 8:00 Europe A La Carte...

WEATHER table with columns for location, low, high, and weather conditions.

WINNING CARDS in yesterday's Mital Habayis daily chance drawing. Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. With drooping tubular bloomers, one says very little at factory (6,5). 9. Where one travels in the course of a safari (4). 10. One out on his feet? (5,6).

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

ACROSS: 1. Retinas (5). 4. Twisted necklace (6). 9. Passage (7). 10. Beg (6).

JERUSALEM CINEMA: 4:45-7:15, 9:45-12:15. CINEMA: 4:45-7:15, 9:45-12:15. CINEMA: 4:45-7:15, 9:45-12:15...

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION: ACROSS: 1 Branch, 4 Lyng, 8 Wicket, 9 Excess, 10 Examples, 11 Flat, 12 Bid, 13 Berg, 15 Race, 18 Sam, 21 Oast, 22 Usually, 25 Terminal, 26 Heral, 27 Rapid, 28 Avenue.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. Retinas (5). 4. Twisted necklace (6). 9. Passage (7). 10. Beg (6).

Inside

Heat hand Lakers first loss of season Page 18

Sports Editors Joe Hoffmann & Ori Lewis

Swedes pin Davis Cup hopes on Bjorkman

GOTHENBURG (AP) - At the start of the year, Jonas Bjorkman was ranked No. 69 in the world, a respected doubles player with no singles title to his name.

Eleven months later, the Swedish hopes of upsetting the US in the Davis Cup final rest on Bjorkman, who has soared to No. 4 in the world.

The draw for the tie will be made today, with the opening singles tomorrow, the doubles on Saturday and the reverse singles on Sunday.

The Swedish team got a boost yesterday when Nicklas Kulti, who could play the doubles, was passed fit.

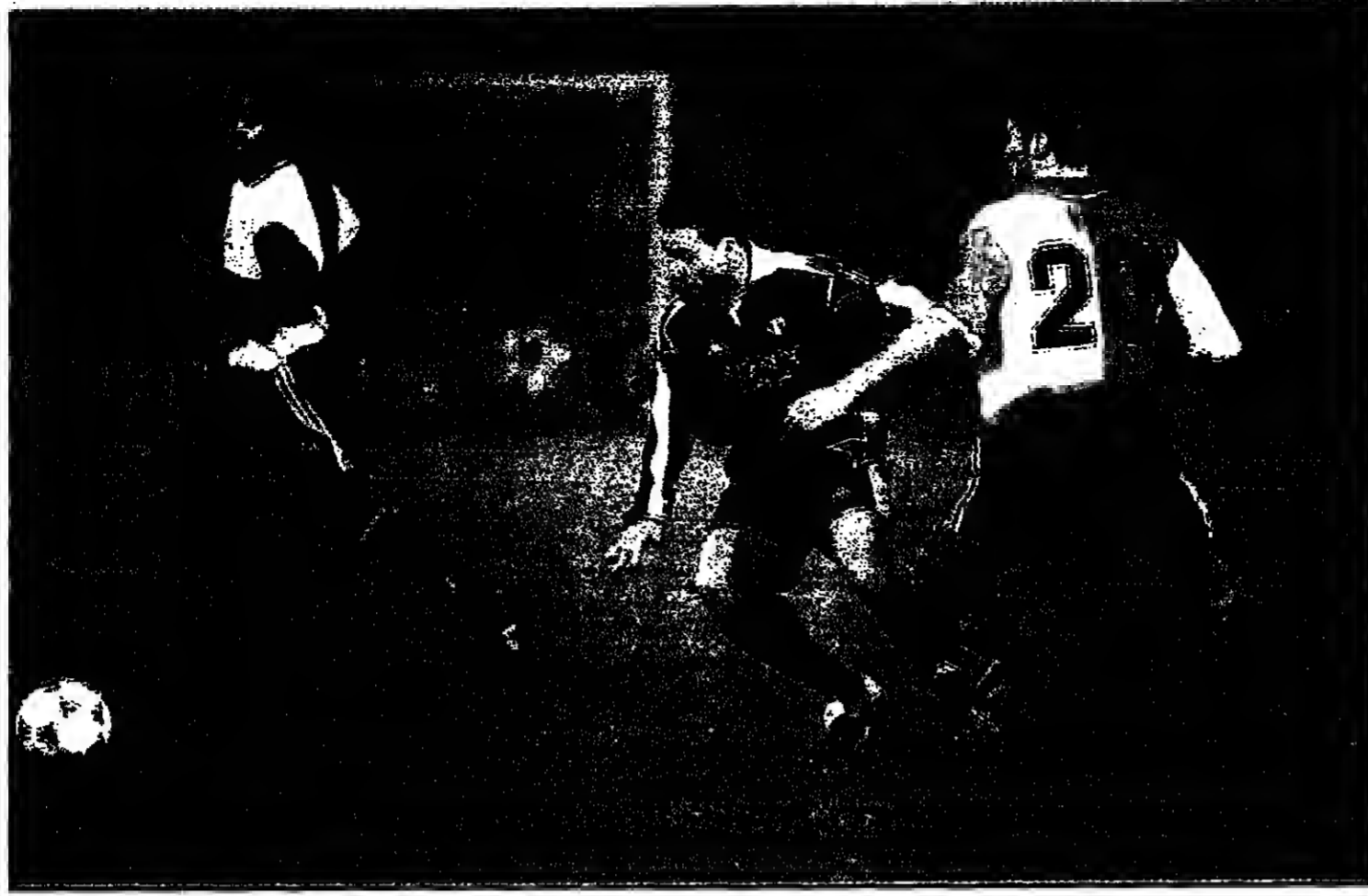
Sweden, runners-up to France last year, are playing their 11th Davis Cup final and have won five times.

The US, on the other hand, are appearing in their 59th final and have won the coveted title 31 times. The Americans lead the Swedes 7-2 in Davis Cup play, but both defeats came in Gothenburg.

The Americans are favored this time too. With Pete Sampras No. 1 in the world and Michael Chang No. 3, the rankings speak for the Americans. While Bjorkman is No. 4, Magnus Larsson, expected to be the second singles player, is No. 25.

Bjorkman will probably have to win both singles and perhaps earn another in doubles for Sweden to pull off an upset. But he is 1-7 against Sampras in career matches.

Competing the American team are Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark, while the fourth member of the Swedish team is Thomas Enqvist.



Feynoord's Henk Vos (No. 20) tries to stop Juve's Alessandro Birindelli during their match in Rotterdam as Feynoord's Giovanni van Bronckhorst eyes the opposition.

Feynoord's Cruz sinks Juve 2-0

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) - Argentinian striker Julio Cruz scored two second half goals as Feynoord sank Juventus 2-0 in their European Champions League group B match last night.

The result means that group leaders Manchester United need only to draw against Kosice at home tonight to ensure their place in the last eight.

After a goalless first half in which the Dutch team frustrated Juventus' build-up with some resolute defending, Cruz opened the score in the 66th minute with a powerful shot from just inside the box.

Two minutes from time Cruz made sure of the points when he wrestled through the Italian defence to beat goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi from close range.

The win avenged Feynoord's 5-1 defeat to Juventus in the opening Champions League match in September and continued their improvement under new coach Leo Beenhakker.

Besiktas 0, Bayern Munich 2 In Istanbul, Bayern Munich

raised their hopes for a berth in the quarterfinals by beating Turkey's Besiktas 2-0.

The victory kept Bayern Munich on top of Group E with 12 points. Besiktas have six.

Bayern scored an early goal in the fifth minute when Carsten Jancker, receiving a long overhead pass from Michael Tamat, headed the ball into the net.

In the 31st minute, Thomas Helmer scored his team's second goal with a header, again after receiving a pass from Tamat.

The match was played under floodlights before 30,000 Turks and 500 Germans at the Inonu stadium.

IFK Gothenburg 0, PSG 1 In Gothenburg, Eric Rabesandratana struck three minutes from time to give 10-man Paris St Germain a 1-0 victory over IFK Gothenburg and keep alive their hopes of a quarter-final place.

The midfielder headed home a cross from Franck Gava to win a match dominated by the Swedes.

PSG's Jimmy Algerino was sent

off 12 minutes from time but the Frenchmen rallied to claim the win that takes them to nine points.

Barcelona 1, Newcastle 0 In Barcelona, a superb lobbed goal from Brazilian midfielder Giovanni provided the highlight of Barcelona's largely lacklustre 1-0 victory over Newcastle United.

With Barcelona already out of contention, a mere 25,000 fans turned up for the group C clash. The result effectively ended Newcastle's hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage and provided the Spaniards with their first victory in the group.

Monaco 3, Sporting Lisbon 2 In Monaco, an injury time goal from Thierry Henry helped Monaco bounce back from a poor start to beat Sporting Lisbon 3-2 in their group F clash.

Sporting, who beat Monaco 3-0 in Portugal in their group match in September, seemed to be heading towards another victory with two first-half goals from striker Luis Miguel and captain Oceano.

But the French champions drew

level with goals from their striking pair David Trezeguet and Henry in the 65th and 75th minutes respectively before Henry scored the late winner.

Monaco retained the top spot in the group but they are level on 12 points with second-placed Bayer Leverkusen of Germany.

Lierse 0, Bayer Leverkusen 2 In Brussels, Bayer Leverkusen, scored twice in the second half to beat Belgium's Lierse 2-0 away and stay on course for a quarter-final place.

The Germans survived the last 20 minutes with 10 men after captain Markus Happe was sent off.

Monaco clung on to top spot in group F ahead of Leverkusen on goal difference.

There was little drama in Brussels until Brazilian Emerson cut in between two defenders to hammer the ball past veteran Belgian goalkeeper Philippe Vande Walle in the 54th minute.

Ulf Kirsten netted the second 12 minutes later, following up after his initial shot hit the bar.

Israel cruise to easy win over Belarus

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

They may not be the dream team, but the members of Israel's National basketball team could sleep soundly last night after the dreamy performance they put on in routing Belarus 95-64 at Yad Eliahu in the group C opener of the European Championships preliminary round.

While the second half of the game may have been sleep inducing, after Israel racked up a huge 51-27 halftime lead, it's been a while since our national team has had a laugh, and a while since it displaced such selfless team play.

From the tip-off, every player on the team gave their all, playing suffocating defense or finding the open man repeatedly on offense, both a tribute to new national team coach Muli Katzurin.

Katzurin showed what he must have been doing during his long vacation from the courts as he shuffled players with aplomb and seemed to have inspired his charges with his own team-first attitude.

Tomer Steinhauer got Israel off to a roaring start, scoring the hosts' first nine points as Israel opened a quick 12-5 lead. Then it was Nadav Heneffeld's turn to get into the act.

The Maccabi Tel Aviv forward seemed to flourish playing team ball, ending up with 12 points and five of Israel's 25 assists.

The under-manned Belarus squad, which had several key players miss the game while playing college ball in the US, relied solely on Alexei Pintikov (20 points) and Andrei Klemez, but could do little to stop the Israeli juggernaut.

Doron Sheffer, who led Israel with 18 points, repeatedly took his defender inside to score easy hoops and had 12 in the first-half. Amir-Katz came off a bench to pop two three-pointers in the half and Guy Goodes, on loan to Italian second division

club Caserta, also got into the act, hoisting up a three-pointer that marked his return to the national team since a knee injury put his career in jeopardy.

What delighted the almost capacity crowd of some 8,000 was the passing and self-sacrificed that resulted in some beautiful fast breaks. Israel's running game never looked as good as it did last night, and while it was, admittedly, against poor opposition, it hodes extremely well for the future.

Katzurin, anxious to get everyone into the act, made sure the whole bench also saw action.

When Oded Katash was forced to the sidelines in the second half with a brief recurrence of a nagging foot injury, Israel hardly missed him, as Goodes, Katz and Lior Arditi filled the gap.

A three-pointer by Goodes, who scored 12 points and had four assists, with just over 10 minutes to play, gave Israel a 30-point lead it barely relinquished along the way. Uri Cohen-Mintz had a three-pointer, as did Arditi just before the buzzer, giving Israel 10 treys on the night.

Katzurin and his assistant, David Blatt, couldn't have asked for a better way to start their reign at the helm of the national team, and last night's performance should go far towards hoisting Israel's hopes of beating Ukraine on Saturday night. Something the strong Spanish squad, the seeded team in group C, accomplished last night 83-66.

Next Wednesday night, Israel travels to Denmark, who lost to visitors England 72-64 last night.

It may still be too early for Katzurin and his charges to enroll for French lessons prior to the European Championships in 1999, but after last night's convincing win, Katzurin may want to take his players to dinner at a good French restaurant to whet their appetite for even better things to come.

Pippen still eyeing Chicago exit

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson said Scottie Pippen was just joking when he demanded a trade, but two days later, the seven-time All-Star still wasn't laughing.

Asked Tuesday in Seattle if he thought he would ever play for the defending NBA champions again, the injured forward said gravely: "I don't think so." Pippen added: "I'd rather leave things as I can remember them as a player here, and go on."

Pippen said he still had "a lot of respect" for his teammates and the fans in Chicago. "But I have to look out for myself," he said. "I just feel I've been treated unfairly."

On Sunday, Pippen - who is sidelined until mid-December with an injured left foot - told a Chicago area newspaper, the *Arlington Heights Daily Herald*, that he "ain't coming back" and demanded a trade to either the Phoenix Suns or the Los Angeles Lakers.

He called Bulls general manager Jerry Krause a "chicken" and said Krause threatened to fine him if he played in his own charity game in September.

At Monday's practice in Seattle, Pippen refused to elaborate except to say that he is not physically ready to return to action.

Jackson said Monday he was not convinced Pippen wanted out. "I think he's just joking the press," said Jackson, who is almost certainly in his final year as coach of the Bulls. "I think he's having fun, throwing out a barb."

Pippen is in the final year of a contract that pays him \$2.775 million this season, a relatively paltry amount for

one of the league's top players. He is expected to command a multi-year contract averaging \$10 million to \$15 million per season in the free agent market.

If Krause does not deal him by the February 19 trading deadline, he risks getting nothing for him.

The 32-year-old Pippen has not played this season. He was injured in last season's Eastern Conference semifinals and had surgery in October. His projected return was anywhere from mid-December to early January, and he cannot be traded until deemed healthy.

Pippen took part in the first half of Monday's practice until his foot became sore.

Pippen averaged 20.2 points, 6.2 rebounds and 5.7 assists per game last season, helping the Bulls win their fifth title in seven years.

Krause has dangled Pippen as trade bait several times. While Krause spent nearly \$38 million to keep fellow superstars Jordan and Dennis Rodman for another season, he tried to deal Pippen to the Boston Celtics on draft day. In 1995, he tried to trade Pippen to the Seattle SuperSonics for Shawn Kemp.

Without Pippen, the Bulls have struggled to an 8-6 mark following Tuesday night's 91-90 loss to Seattle. Last season, Chicago did not lose its fifth game until January 21.

A member of the 1992 and 1996 Olympic gold medal teams, Pippen last year was voted one of the NBA's 50 greatest players of all time. He has been named to the NBA all-defensive first team for the last six years.

Messier returns to New York, helps Canucks beat Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) - Mark Messier made a triumphant return to New York as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Rangers 4-2 Tuesday night in an emotion-filled night at Madison Square Garden.

Messier scored the Canucks' second goal of the game on a classic breakaway that Ranger fans had seen many times over the last six years when he played in New York.

The goal stood as the game-winner until Tim Sweeney scored for New York with three seconds left. It was a gigantic love-in for Messier from start to finish, as fans cheered his first appearance on the ice for warmups and then his recognition as the game's first star at the end of the game.

It was Messier's first return to Madison Square Garden since leaving the Rangers this past summer to sign as a free agent with the Canucks.

David Seachard, Pavel Bure and Mike Sillinger scored the other goals for Vancouver, which is 3-1-1 since former Rangers coach Mike Keenan took over behind the bench.

Leafs 3, Sharks 1 In Toronto, the Maple Leafs, the lowest-scoring team in the NHL, broke out for three goals to defeat San Jose.

The Leafs, shut out 2-0 by Phoenix

on Saturday, were averaging just 1.9 goals a game before the win.

Igor Korolev, Derek King and Alyn McCauley scored for the Leafs. Jarrod Skalde ruined Felix Potvin's bid for a shutout with less than two minutes to play.

Blackhawks 2, Oilers 2 In Edmonton, Alberta, Eric Daze's goal at 18:45 of the second period earned Chicago the tie.

Striking out of his own end, Daze was left alone as he raced into the Oilers zone and registered his seventh goal of the year, tipping in a perfect pass from Sergei Krivokrasov just as a Blackhawks' power play expired.

Jeff Shantz had the other goal for Chicago, playing the fourth game of

a five-game road trip that has netted the club five points.

Ryan Smyth and Rem Murray scored for Edmonton, which was looking for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Coyotes 3, Blues 2 In Phoenix, both Bob Corkum and Teppo Numminen had a goal and an assist, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 26 saves Phoenix won for the fourth time in five games.

Rick Tocchet also scored for the Coyotes, who won for the seventh time in their last nine home games.

Darren Turcotte and Steve Duchesne scored for the Blues, who dropped their third straight game. They have totaled just four goals in their last four games.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION MUST ALSO HONOR AGREEMENTS

On January 15, 1997 Former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher assured Prime Minister Netanyahu:

"I have impressed upon Chairman Arafat the imperative need for the Palestinian Authority to make every effort to ensure public order and internal security within the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I have stressed to him that effectively carrying out this major responsibility will be a critical foundation for completing implementation of the Interim Agreement, as well as the peace process as a whole."

In Addition U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross endorsed the commitments that Arafat promised to honor:

- 1. To complete the process of amending the Palestinian National Covenant.
2. To fight terror and prevent violence.
3. To strengthen cooperation in security issues.
4. To fight terror organizations in a systematic and efficient manner.
5. To capture and try terrorists.
6. To extradite terrorists in accord with the Oslo Agreements.
7. To confiscate illegal weapons.
8. To reduce the size of the Palestinian police as set forth in the Oslo Agreements.
9. To close the offices of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem.



The Israeli government in its approval of the Hebron Agreement stated:

"The main condition for the continuation of the Oslo Agreement is mutual compliance."

Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have not complied with these U.S. guarantees:

- They have not completed the amendment of the Palestinian National Covenant
They have not fought terror and prevented violence
They have not prevented incitement and hostile propoganda
They have not fought terror organizations in a systematic and efficient manner
They have not captured or tried terrorists
They have not extradited terrorists in accords with the Oslo Accord
They have not confiscated illegal weapons
They have not reduced the size of the Palestinian Police as agreed in Oslo
They have not closed the offices of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem

Even those committed to continuing with Oslo, must realize that the Agreements can not proceed until the United States Government insists on compliance from the Palestinian Authority rather than bullying Israel into accepting non-compliance.

Yesha Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Livna World' and 'Personalelectro'.